



# The Brood of Erys

## by Andrew Smith

**THE DOCTOR: COLIN BAKER**

Time and space traveller.

**FLIP: LISA GREENWOOD**

His companion.

**SARRA VANSER / FEMALE DRACHEE (SC. 58):**

Late 30s. A space traveller with no memory. She has come to Erys for a purpose...

**LONA [Pron. LOAN-AH] / JEN & MYA (Age 11/12, SC. 73):**

Female Drachee, in truth the personification of Erys.

**TERRILL / BEACON WARNING MESSAGE (SC. 2) / LEVEK (M, late 30S, SC. 73):**

Drachee leader with ambition to experience more of the universe than can be found while tied to Erys.

**REIVAL [Pron. REN-VILL] / ERYs [Pron. ERRIS]:**

(M, 60s) A village elder on Asphyra. / Androgenous. Living moon around the planet Asphyra. Parent to the Drachee.

**ELGIN VANSER :**

(M, Early 60s). A surgeon on his home world of Laminus, father of Sarra.

**OTHER PARTS PERFORMED BY THE CAST:**

DRACHEE 1 (SC. 25), DRACHEE 2 (SC. 25)

**OTHERS – VOCAL, NON SPEAKING:**

**MALE DRACHEE** (SC. 7, 62), **DRACHEE** (Group – several scenes), **MUD BEASTS** (Group and singular – several scenes, end of ep 3 and through ep 4), **VILLAGERS** (Several scenes)

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**PART ONE**

**SCENE 1. SPACECRAFT INTERIOR.**

(FX: A COMPACT, METAL WALLED SPACE. A SUBTLE HYPNOTIC TONE IN THE BACKGROUND.)

**ELGIN:**

Who are you?

**SARRA:**

(PUZZLED) I... I am...

**ELGIN:**

What is your name?

**SARRA:**

My name?

**ELGIN:**

It's a simple question. Tell me your name.

**SARRA:**

I... am I... Sarra?

**ELGIN:**

You're not sure of your own name?

**SARRA:**

I should be... shouldn't I?

**ELGIN:**

Do you know who I am? (PAUSE) No? Take a good look. Do you know me?

**SARRA:**

I... No. Who are you?

**ELGIN:**

Never mind, girl. Never mind. It's time.

(FX: THE HYPNOTIC TONE STARTS TO RISE IN VOLUME.)

**SARRA:**

Time?

**ELGIN:**

You must rest just once more.

(FX: THE MACHINE THAT IS THE SOURCE OF THE HYPNOTIC TONE MOVES TOWARDS US. CLOSER AND CLOSER...)

**ELGIN:**

It's time to begin.

**CRASH INTO OPENING THEME.**

**SCENE 2. TARDIS CONTROL ROOM.**

(FX: THE TARDIS IN FLIGHT. THE ENGINES ARE COMPLETING A MATERIALISATION SEQUENCE.)

THE DOCTOR OPERATES A NUMBER OF CONTROLS, CONTINUING BEHIND THE FOLLOWING.)

**FLIP:**

Where have we landed?

**DOCTOR:**

I don't know for sure. We have materialised in a random part of Space/Time so that I can recalibrate the TARDIS systems. It needs doing, it's been a long time.

**FLIP:**

Why somewhere random?

**DOCTOR:**

Because, Miss Jackson, when materialising at an arbitrary location the TARDIS conducts a far range scan to pinpoint its position.

(FX: A DATA READOUT CHATTERS ACROSS A MONITOR SCREEN.)

**DOCTOR:**

(CONTINUED) Like so, excellent. Then we move to another random point and take a further reading. By comparing the two sets of data we can assess the accuracy or otherwise of the TARDIS's chrono-spatial placement.

**FLIP:**

Kind of like when you first set up a wireless controller for a games console?

**DOCTOR:**

When you first set up a - ? (SIGH) No doubt.

(FX: KEYBOARD TAPS. SLOWER, MORE DELIBERATE NOW.)

**DOCTOR:**

This is odd...

**FLIP:**

What is?

**DOCTOR:**

Curious. Let's see what's outside.

(FX: THE SCANNER SCREEN OPENS.)

**FLIP:**

Yeah, we're hanging in space? – Oh, they're pretty.

**DOCTOR:**

According to the TARDIS, that pretty planet and its pretty moon are the only bodies in this system apart from the star that they orbit.

**FLIP:**

Is that odd? One planet?

**DOCTOR:**

It's rare but not unique. No, what's odd is that the scan shows there is a ring of radio beacons surrounding this system.

**FLIP:**

I can't see any.

**DOCTOR:**

Oh they're far from here, about a hundred and fifty million miles out.

**FLIP:**

A hundred and fifty million??

**DOCTOR:**

That's less than half the distance from your world to Jupiter. Still, it's a major feat of technology, to deploy so many beacons around such a vast area of space.

**FLIP:**

What are they for?

(FX: CONSOLE INSTRUMENTS ARE OPERATED.)

**DOCTOR:**

They're emitting a signal. Ah, and there's an audio message. Let's have a listen.

(FX: A SWITCH IS THROWN.)

**WARNING MESSAGE:**

(AUTHORITATIVE) "Keep away. This system is out of bounds by interplanetary decree. If you proceed your life will be in jeopardy, and should you survive you will be subject to the severest sanctions that the law can provide.. (A TONE, THEN THE

MESSAGE RESTARTS) Keep away. This system is out of bounds by interplanetary decree. If you proceed – "

(FX: THE SAME SWITCH IS OPERATED, CUTTING OFF THE MESSAGE.)

**DOCTOR:**

Oh.

**FLIP:**

"Your life will be in jeopardy?"

**DOCTOR:**

It could be a warning of a navigation hazard.

**FLIP:**

Should we leave?

**DOCTOR:**

That might be wise. Although I am curious.

**FLIP:**

Hey, what are they? On the scanner.

(FX: THROUGH THE SCANNER, MULTIPLE SMALL SPACECRAFT IN THE DISTANCE AND COMING CLOSER, CONTINUING BEHIND THE FOLLOWING.)

**DOCTOR:**

Hmm?

**FLIP:**

Are they spaceships? See, about ten of them? Little things.

**DOCTOR:**

Skimmers.

**FLIP:**

Skimmers?

**DOCTOR:**

Single person, short distance space pods.

**FLIP:**

They're heading this way.

**DOCTOR:**

Given the warning we just heard, we should exercise caution. Let's see if they'll speak to us.

(FX: A COMMUNICATIONS SWITCH IS ACTIVATED.)

**DOCTOR:**

(CONTINUED) Approaching skimmers, this is the Doctor on board the blue ship, TARDIS. Can you hear me?

**SCENE 3. INT. SKIMMER.**

(FX: CRAMPED INTERIOR AMBIENCE. THE SKIMMER'S SMOOTH ENGINE TONE RESONATES. A FEW SUBTLE ELECTRONIC COCKPIT CONTROLS SOUND AS THE COURSE IS ADJUSTED BY THE PILOT.)

**DOCTOR:** (RADIO FILTER)

I say again, approaching skimmers can you hear me?

(BEAT.)

**TERRILL:** (MENTAL PROJECTION)

Brothers and sisters we will maintain radio silence. Continue on approach to the blue box.

(FX: THE SKIMMER CONTINUES.)



**SCENE 4. INT. TARDIS CONTROL ROOM.**

(FX: THE DOCTOR CLOSES THE COMMUNICATIONS CHANNEL.)

**DOCTOR:**  
Nothing.

**FLIP:**  
They can't hear you?

**DOCTOR:**  
Or they choose to ignore me.

**FLIP:**  
They're almost on top of us. Should we go?

**DOCTOR:**  
They're not armed. They're close enough now for us to be sure of that.

**FLIP:**  
But they are surrounding the TARDIS. I can make out the people inside them. Are they... are they children??

**DOCTOR:**  
Look again. They're small, but mature. I don't recognise the species.

**FLIP:**  
They're like imps aren't they? So little. Kind of cute.

**DOCTOR:**  
Appearances can be deceptive. And remember that warning.

**SCENE 5. SKIMMER.**

(FX: THE SKIMMER IS HANGING IN SPACE, ITS ENGINE TICKING OVER. NEARBY, OTHER SKIMMER ENGINES ARE ALSO IDLING.)

**TERRILL:** (MENTAL PROJECTION)

Brothers and sisters, this is a rare specimen. We shall examine it.

(FX: A CONTROL ACTIVATES, THE CANOPY OPENS. WE HEAR THE IDLING ENGINES OF OTHER SKIMMERS NEARBY.

AND NOW SEVERAL OTHER CANOPIES ALSO OPEN.)

**TERRILL:**

(EFFORT OF CLIMBING OUT.)

**SCENE 6. INT. TARDIS CONTROL ROOM.**

**FLIP:**

(WORRIED) What are they climbing out of their ships for?

**DOCTOR:**

They can survive in a vacuum... What? Don't you dare.

**FLIP:**

That one's going to - [jump]

(FX: A SMALL IMPACT, THE CREATURE LANDING ON THE ROOF OF THE TARDIS.)

**FLIP:**

(CONTINUED) He did! He jumped!

**DOCTOR:**

The cheek. (SHOUTING UP) Get off my roof!

(FX: FURTHER SMALL IMPACTS AS OTHERS OF THE CREATURES MAKE THE SAME LEAP.

A FEW SHORT BANGS FROM THE DOOR, THE CREATURES KNOCKING AGAINST IT AS THEY MANOEUVRE.

BEHIND THE FOLLOWING, CONTINUED KNOCKS AND SCUFFLES OF MOVEMENT ON THE ROOF AND OUTSIDE THE DOORS.)

**FLIP:**

Are they trying to get in?

**DOCTOR:**

It's more that they're curious about us. The way they're clambering around, they're examining the TARDIS.

**FLIP:**

They're so quick. And thin. Aww, that one's smiling. Do you think he knows we're looking at him?

**DOCTOR:**

They are quite childlike, aren't they?

**SCENE 7. TARDIS EXTERIOR.**

(FX: THE DRACHEE, LITHE AND NIMBLE, SCAMPERING BAREFOOT AROUND AND OVER THE TARDIS.)

**TERRILL:** (MENTAL PROJECTION)

Brothers and sisters, can you feel the power in this device?

(FX: THE DRACHEE SCAMPER CLOSER TO TERRILL.

ONE OF THEM SLIPS.)

**MALE DRACHEE:**

(CRIES OUT AS HE SLIPS, STARTS TO FALL.)

**TERRILL:**

(SPOKEN ALOUD) (REACTING, GRABBING FOR HIS FRIEND) Careful!

**SCENE 8. INT. TARDIS CONTROL ROOM.**

**FLIP:**

Woah, that one almost fell off. His mate just caught him.

**DOCTOR:**

It was very close, yes.

**FLIP:**

It's not safe for them. I'm opening the doors.

**DOCTOR:**

Flip. No!

**DOCTOR:**

Opening the door in space can be hideously dangerous! Especially if I haven't made sure the force-field is operational.

**FLIP:**

Well, is it?

**DOCTOR:**

Is what *what?*

**FLIP:**

Is your forcefield thing operational?

**DOCTOR:**

Well yes, but--

(FX: DOOR CONTROL OPERATES. THE TARDIS MAIN DOORS OPEN.)

Flip! We don't know if we can trust these creatures!

**FLIP:**

They're harmless! And you couldn't dematerialise while they're out there anyway.

**DOCTOR:**

They are perfectly capable of looking after - [themselves].

(FX: THE DRACHEE SWARM IN, ABOUT EIGHT OF THEM. FAST, LIGHT-FOOTED, FEET AND HANDS BRUSHING THE FLOOR AS THEY PROPEL THEMSELVES ALONG. THEY MAKE AN EXCITED ANIMALISTIC SOUND, A CURT CHATTER, AMONG THEMSELVES AS THEY ENTER. THEY SPREAD OUT, EXAMINING THE ROOM. CONTINUING BEHIND THE FOLLOWING.)

**DOCTOR:**

(CONTINUED) (EXASPERATED) Close the door then, Flip.

(FX: TARDIS DOORS CLOSE, BEHIND THE FOLLOWING)

**DOCTOR:**

(CONTINUED) (WITH BAD GRACE) Welcome! I am the Doctor and this is Flip. Do come in. As an old friend of mine would have said, 'Liberty Hall' ...

(FX: TERRILL MOVES UP CLOSE TO THE DOCTOR.)

**TERRILL:**

(EXPLORATORY SNIFFS OF THE DOCTOR, THEN - ) I am Terrill. My apologies if my brothers and sisters and I startled you.

**DOCTOR:**

I'm glad to make your acquaintance, Terrill. However, if you could just ask your siblings to be careful ... ?

**FLIP:**

(DELIGHTED) Hello Terrill.

**TERRILL:**

Lady.

**FLIP:**

Ooh. Lady. I like that.

**TERRILL:**

What is this ship?

**FLIP:**

It's called the TARDIS. It can travel in - [time and space]

**DOCTOR:**

(A HASTY INTERRUPTION) Yes thank you, Flip.

**TERRILL:**

But how is it big, when outside it is so small? This is fascinating to us.

**DOCTOR:**

It's fascinating to most people. But - hang on.

(FX: OVER THE ABOVE, A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY THE INNER CONTROL ROOM DOOR IS OPENED.

FOUR DRACHEE SCAMPER THROUGH AND OUT.)

**DOCTOR:**

(CONTINUED) Where are those four going? Oh this is too much!  
Get back in here!

**TERRILL:**

My brothers and sisters are only exploring your ship. They will do no damage.

**DOCTOR:**

(CALLING) Get back in here! Oh really this is too much.

**FLIP:**

It's all right, Doctor. I'll fetch them back. (MOVING AWAY) Oi!  
You lot!

**DOCTOR:**

This is intolerable.

**TERRILL:**

Apologies, Doctor. We Drachee are naturally inquisitive.

**DOCTOR:**

You're called Drachee? I take it you come from that planet?

**TERRILL:**

The planet is Asphya. The moon is Ery's. We Drachee are from Ery's. You would not like the people of Asphya.

**DOCTOR:**

No?

**TERRILL:**

They are a very simple society. No ambition. Farmers. Tsk.

**DOCTOR:**

Do the Drachee have ambition?

**TERRILL:**

Some of us do.

**DOCTOR:**

Terrill, if life is so simple here, can you explain to me why there is a network of beacons around this system warning other space travellers not to enter if they value their lives?

**TERRILL:**

There is no danger here.

**DOCTOR:**

That doesn't answer my question.



**SCENE 9.INT. TARDIS CORRIDOR.**

(FX: TARDIS AMBIENCE.)

**DRACHEE:**

(LOW, EXCITED CHATTER)

(FX: A SMALL GROUP OF DRACHEE ARE STANDING IN A GROUP. A HINGED ROUNDEL IS OPENED.)

**DRACHEE:**

(INTERESTED, HAPPILY SURPRISED REACTION)

(FX: FOOTSTEPS APPROACH)

**FLIP:**

(APPROACHING) (FAUX STERN; SHE IS STILL CHARMED BY THESE CREATURES) All right, that's enough. Come on. Shut that roundy-panel-thingy before you break something.

**DRACHEE:**

(SULLEN, SULKY 'OH DO WE HAVE TO?' REACTION)

(FX: THE PANEL IS CLOSED.)

**FLIP:**

Honestly, what am I going to do with you? Come on, back to the control room.

(FX: THE DRACHEE MOVE BACK ALONG THE CORRIDOR, FLIP ACCOMPANYING THEM.)

**DRACHEE:**

(MOVING AWAY) (WHISPERED CHATTER.)

**SCENE 10. INT. TARDIS CONTROL ROOM.**

(FX: TARDIS AMBIENCE. A FEW DRACHEE STILL SCAMPERING AROUND. A SWITCH IS PLAYED WITH, REPEATEDLY SWITCHED ON AND OFF.)

**DOCTOR:**

Now *really!*

**TERRILL:**

Larn. Perska. Bren. Do not break that.

**DRACHEE:**

(SULLENLY, THEY DESIST.)

**DOCTOR:**

I'm grateful for your intervention, Terrill. I'd be more grateful if your friends would leave things alone.

**TERRILL:**

They are my brothers and my sisters and they are most interested in your marvellous ship, Doctor.

(FX: THE INNER DOOR OPENS. FLIP AND THE SMALL GROUP OF DRACHEE RETURN.)

**FLIP:**

(ENTERING) Here you go Doctor. I rounded them up.

**DOCTOR:**

Thank you Flip. And Terrill, I'm afraid we must now be on our way.

**TERRILL:**

No.

**DOCTOR:**

I beg your pardon?

**TERRILL:**

I said no. We will not leave. We like your ship.

**DOCTOR:**

I know you do. But I'm afraid I can't take you with me.

**TERRILL:**

We do not mean you to take us. You will give us your ship.

**DOCTOR:**

What?

(TERRILL NOW MUCH LESS ENDEARING. THE FACADE DROPS AND HE IS DETERMINED.)

**TERRILL:**

It is very simple. We are taking over your ship and you will relinquish it to us.

**DOCTOR:**

No. No I won't.

(FX: A RESONANT TONE, THE POWER OF TERRILL'S MENTAL PROJECTION.)

**TERRILL:** (MENTAL PROJECTION)

(RESONATING, BOOMING IN THE DOCTOR'S MIND) Yes. You will.

**DOCTOR:**

(CRIES OUT IN AGONY)

**TERRILL:** (MENTAL PROJECTION)

You will do as I say, Doctor. I'll show you. Kneel down.

**DOCTOR:**

(IN PAIN, STRUGGLING, BUT DRAWN TO HIS KNEES.)

**FLIP:**

Doctor?!

**DOCTOR:**

(PAINED, AND EVEN AFRAID) He's in my head ... Manipulating my memories ...

**TERRILL:** (MENTAL PROJECTION)

Manipulating your fears. There are things you fear a great deal, aren't there, Doctor?

**DOCTOR:**

Stop this ... !

**FLIP:**

(APPROACHING) Let me help.

**TERRILL:** (MENTAL PROJECTION)

BACK, GIRL.

**FLIP:**

(THROWN BACK VIOLENTLY AGAINST THE WALL, SHE CRIES OUT.)

(FX: FLIP HITS THE TARDIS WALL.)

**DOCTOR:**

(THROUGH THE PAIN) Leave her... alone!

**TERRILL:** (MENTAL PROJECTION)

I will. Once we have your ship, your TARDIS. If you continue to fight, the effort will cause you great pain.

**DOCTOR:**

(STRUGGLING BACK TO HIS FEET) We'll... see... about... THAT!

(FX: TERRILL'S MENTAL PROJECTION IS BROKEN, THE TONE STOPS.)

**DOCTOR:**

(NO LONGER IN PAIN, HE GATHERS HIS BREATH)

**FLIP:**

(SHE ALSO RECOVERS, NO LONGER IN PAIN)

**TERRILL:**

This isn't possible. How did you do that?

**DOCTOR:**

(VERY WEAK) I've been mind wrestled by far better than you, Terrill. Now... Get off my TARDIS.

**TERRILL:**

But I want it.

**DOCTOR:**

(VERY WEAK) Wanting... isn't getting.

(FX: A SUDDEN LOUD GRINDING SOUND RESONATES, EMANATING FROM OUTSIDE THE TARDIS AS A MASSIVE GRAVITATIONAL FORCE ACTS ON IT. AFTER A SHORT PERIOD IT CEASES.)

**DRACHEE:**

(EXCITED CHATTER)

**DOCTOR:**

What was that?

**TERRILL:**

(FRUSTRATED) It has started.

(FX: THE SOUND RESUMES: GRINDING, STRAINING METAL, CONTINUING SPORADICALLY BEHIND THE FOLLOWING.)

**DOCTOR:**

What has started? What's happening to my TARDIS?

**TERRILL:**

We have to leave. If we can't have your ship, we'll have something else you value. Larn. Vana. Bring the girl.

**DOCTOR:**

No!

(FX: A SCUFFLE AS TWO DRACHEE GRAB HOLD OF FLIP.)

**FLIP:**

(STRUGGLES) Here what are you doing? Let go of me you little –

[FX: AN OBJECT LIKE A LARGE CLOTH SWEEPS THROUGH THE AIR AND ENVELOPS FLIP. THERE IS A RUSH OF OXYGEN.]

**TERRILL:**

A vacuum cloak. You'll need that.

**FLIP:**

(MUFFLED FROM INSIDE THE CLOAK) Doctor!

**DOCTOR:**

Put her down!

(FX: ANOTHER BURST OF TERRILL'S MENTAL FORCE STRIKES THE DOCTOR.)

**DOCTOR:**

(CRIES OUT, STRUGGLES AGAINST THE FORCE) Let... her... go!

**TERRILL:**

You will never see her again. (TO THE DRACHEE) Throw her out. Quickly!

**FLIP:**

(WITHIN THE CLOAK) Throw me? What?

(FX: THE CLOAK, DRAGGED LIKE A SACK ACROSS THE TARDIS FLOOR WITH FLIP IN IT.)

**FLIP:**

(WITHIN THE CLOAK) No don't! I can't breathe out there!

**TERRILL:**

You will breathe. That's the point of the vacuum cloak.

**FLIP:**

(WITHIN THE CLOAK) Doctor!!

**DOCTOR:**

(STRUGGLING WITH MENTAL EFFORT. GAINING THE UPPER HAND) I told you... Terrill... I am an old hand... at this!

(FX: THE TONE OF THE MENTAL PROJECTION AGAIN CUTS OUT.)

**TERRILL:**

But it has left you too weak to stop us.

**DOCTOR:**

(FAINT, STAGGERS.) No... no...

**TERRILL:**

Do it. Throw her out.

(FX: FLIP, IN THE VACUUM CLOAK, IS LIFTED FROM THE FLOOR.)

**FLIP:**

(CRIES AS SHE IS THROWN OUT OF THE DOORS, AWAY FROM US.)

**TERRILL:**

Everyone. Out. To your skimmers.

**DRACHEE:**

(EXCITED CHATTERING AS THEY SCRAMBLE OUT.)

(FX: THE GROUP OF DRACHEE MOVE SWIFTLY ACROSS THE CONTROL ROOM FLOOR AND THROW THEMSELVES OUT THROUGH THE DOORS.

THE GRINDING, CRUNCHING, STRAINING SOUND GROWS IN VOLUME.)

**TERRILL:**

Doctor. You asked what that sound was? It's the reason those warning beacons tell people to stay away. If you value your life you'll leave here if you can. Now.

**DOCTOR:**

Flip..

**TERRILL:**

But hurry. Or you and your ship will soon be crushed. Goodbye.  
(EFFORT OF THROWING HIMSELF THROUGH THE DOORS.)

(FX: TARDIS DOORS CLOSE.)

**DOCTOR:**

(WEAKLY) Flip. Must... get... (FALLS UNCONSCIOUS.)

(FX: THE DOCTOR COLLAPSES ON THE FLOOR.)

**SCENE 11. INT. SKIMMER.**

(FX: FLIP IN HER VACUUM CLOAK IS STRUGGLING WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THE SKIMMER.)

IN THE BACKGROUND, A THUNDEROUS RUMBLE OF THE IMMENSE GRAVITATIONAL FORCE THAT IS ACTING ON THE TARDIS.)

**TERRILL:**

Stop struggling girl, or you will rip the cloak and die. There is no air until I close the canopy.

(FX: THE MOVEMENT WITHIN THE CLOAK STOPS.)

TERRILL CLIMBS IN AND THE CANOPY CLOSES.

**FLIP:**

(WITHIN THE CLOAK) I can't see anything. What's happening? What's that noise?

**TERRILL:**

Better you don't know.

**FLIP:**

(WITHIN THE CLOAK) Where are you taking me?

**TERRILL:**

You'll see.

**FLIP:**

(WITHIN THE CLOAK) The Doctor will come and get me.

**TERRILL:**

You'll never see him again.

(FX: THE SKIMMER ENGINE POWERS UP.)

**FLIP:**

(WITHIN THE CLOAK) Doctor!!

(FX: THE SKIMMER POWERS AWAY.)

(FX: THE ENGINES OF SEVERAL SKIMMERS BUILD IN POWER. THEN THEY SHOOT OFF, AWAY FROM US.)

THE THUNDEROUS RUMBLING CONTINUES.)



**SCENE 12. INT. TARDIS CONTROL ROOM.**

(FX: THE SOUND OF TORTURED METAL REACHES A NEW CRESCENDO, RESONATING THROUGH THE ROOM.)

**DOCTOR:**

(GROANS, REGAINING CONSCIOUSNESS) Flip.. ?

(FX: THE DOCTOR SCRAMBLES TO HIS FEET.)

**DOCTOR:**

(REGAINING HIS WITS RAPIDLY, AWARE OF THE CRISIS) Steady old girl, steady. I know it hurts. Whatever it is. Let's see if we can find out.

(FX: TARDIS CONSOLE INSTRUMENTS ARE OPERATED.)

**DOCTOR:**

Nothing on the scanner. Or the detectors.

(FX: A THUNDEROUS RUMBLE, METAL JOINTS STRAIN.

AN ALARM SOUNDS ON THE CONSOLE. THE DOCTOR CUTS IT OFF.)

**DOCTOR:**

Yes yes, that's all right. I know. The TARDIS is being acted on by an external force. Something that's crushing the life out of you. Stand by for emergency dematerialisation...

(FX: ANOTHER ALARM SOUNDS. A DIFFERENT ONE. THIS ONE CONTINUES BEHIND:)

**DOCTOR:**

I said I know, it's an emergency!... Wait a minute. That's one of the proximity alarms. Proximity alarm?

(FX: THROUGH THE SCANNER, THERE IS A SPATIAL DISTURBANCE HEARD ABOVE THE STRUCTURAL COMPLAINTS OF THE TARDIS. SHIMMERING, SHIFTING SPACE.)

**DOCTOR:**

That's a hyperspace corridor. A ship's about to arrive here? We've got to warn them! They won't last five minutes if they come out of hyperspace into this.

**SCENE 13. SPACE.**

(FX: THE THUNDERING ROAR OF THE FORCE THAT IS CRUSHING THE TARDIS IS IN FULL VIGOUR. NEXT TO IT, THE SHIMMERING DISTURBANCE OF THE HYPERSPACE CORRIDOR.)

INTO THIS ARRIVES A SPACECRAFT, APPROACHING US AT HYPER SPEED, SLOWING AS IT EMERGES INTO REAL SPACE.)

**DOCTOR:** (RADIO FILTER)

This is the Doctor calling the pilot of the space yacht that just arrived from hyperspace. Can you hear me?

(FX: THE ROARING CRUSHING FORCE SURGES AT THE ARRIVAL OF THIS NEW MORSEL.)

**DOCTOR:** (RADIO FILTER)

Space yacht, can you hear me? There is a local gravitational force that is a danger to space traffic. Get out of here!

(FX: THERE IS A BANG. THE SHIP'S ENGINES STALL AND MISFIRE, CUTTING OUT. ITS METAL HULL STARTS TO BUCKLE.)

**SCENE 14. INT. TARDIS CONTROL ROOM.**

(FX: THE CRUSHING FORCE IS AT A PEAK. THE TARDIS IS STRAINING TO KEEP ITS STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY.)

**DOCTOR:**

It's being crushed...

(FX: THE DOCTOR OPERATES CONSOLE INSTRUMENTS.)

**DOCTOR:**

A single life reading on that ship. Nothing for it, we'll have to materialise on board. Here we go!

(FX: THE DEMATERIALISATION SEQUENCE BEGINS.)

**SCENE 15. INT. SPACE YACHT FLIGHT DECK.**

(FX: ELECTRICAL EXPLOSIONS. THE METAL STRUCTURE BUCKLING AND BREAKING. THE ROAR AND THUNDER OF THE GRAVITATIONAL ANOMALY SOUNDING ANGRILY BEHIND ALL OF THIS.)

THE TARDIS MATERIALISES. THE DOORS OPEN.)

**DOCTOR:**

(EMERGING, COUGHING IN THE SMOKE) Hello! Hello! Is there anyone – ? Ah, there you are!

(FX: THE DOCTOR CROSSES THE METAL GRIDDED FLOOR, PUSHES SOME FALLEN ITEMS ASIDE TO GET TO A BODY.)

**DOCTOR:**

(CONTINUED) Hello? Can you hear me? I'm the Doctor.

**SARRA:**

(WEAK, BARELY CONSCIOUS) Doctor... ?

**DOCTOR:**

Can you move? Your ship's falling apart and we don't have much time.

**SARRA:**

I don't even know...

**DOCTOR:**

Never mind. Come on. I'll carry you. (HEAVES WITH THE EFFORT OF LIFTING HER UP.)

**SARRA:**

(MOANS IN PAIN FROM BEING LIFTED)

**DOCTOR:**

I apologise, but speed is of the essence. Come on.

(FX: THE DOCTOR CARRIES HER ACROSS THE METAL FLOOR.)

THE TARDIS DOOR CLOSES.

THE RENDING AND BUCKLING OF METAL AND THE CRESCENDO OF EXPLOSIONS REACHES A PEAK.

THE TARDIS DEMATERIALISES.

A FINAL GREAT RIPPING OF METAL. THE GRAVITATIONAL FORCE ROARS.  
THERE IS AN OUTFRUSH OF AIR INTO THE VACUUM OF SPACE.)

**SCENE 16. TARDIS CONTROL ROOM.**

(FX: TARDIS IN FLIGHT.)

**DOCTOR:**

Well. That was close.

**SARRA:**

(MOANS IN PAIN) Where am I... ?

**DOCTOR:**

You're safe now. Although your ship has broken up I'm afraid.

**SARRA:**

My ship?

**DOCTOR:**

Your space yacht. She came out of hyperspace straight into some kind of gravitational anomaly that was crushing local space.

**SARRA:**

Sorry, wait. What was I doing on a space yacht?

**DOCTOR:**

I really don't know. I just happened to be there when you arrived.

**SARRA:**

I can't remember...

**DOCTOR:**

What is your name?

**SARRA:**

(WITH A START, REMEMBERING — ALMOST — BEING ASKED THIS BEFORE)  
What? My name?

**DOCTOR:**

It's a simple question. I'm sorry. But can you remember your name?

**SARRA:**

My name... Sarra. My name is... Sarra. Yes, I'm sure.

**DOCTOR:**

Sarra who?

**SARRA:**

Sarra... I don't know. Just Sarra. Why can't I remember?

**DOCTOR:**

Amnesia, presumably. There's no sign of head trauma but that's not exclusively a cause...

**SARRA:**

I'm scared. I can't remember anything. Anything.

**DOCTOR:**

Nothing at all?

**SARRA:**

I don't know who I am. I don't know my full name, I don't know why I was on a space yacht, I don't know where I come from... I remember nothing!

**SCENE 17. ERY'S — MAIN CHAMBER.**

(FX: A SPACIOUS INTERIOR ACOUSTIC WITH A SLIGHT ECHO. A DANK SPACE, FLUID DRIPPING FROM THE WALLS IN PLACES.)

THE DRACHEE ENTER, THEIR FEET MOVING ON A SOFT DAMP FLOOR, DRAGGING FLIP, STILL IN HER VACUUM CLOAK.)

**DRACHEE:**

(MUTED DRACHEE CHATTERING, HEARD INTERMITTENTLY BEHIND THE FOLLOWING)

**FLIP:**

(APPROACHING, STRUGGLING WITHIN THE CLOAK) Let. Me. Out!

**TERRILL:**

(APPROACHING) All right, here.

(FX: THE VACUUM CLOAK IS RIPPED OPEN, FLIP FALLS TO THE WET GROUND, HITTING WITH A SQUELCHING THUD.)

**FLIP:**

Eugh! What's this? Is this mud?

**TERRILL:**

Get up.

**FLIP:**

(RISING) That was my plan.

(FX: SHE STANDS.)

**TERRILL:**

This will be your home from now on.

**FLIP:**

A cave? A cave covered in goo? It's not exactly 'Grand Designs'.

**TERRILL:**

Such a brave little girl.

**FLIP:**

Why did you bring me here?

**TERRILL:**

For fun.



(BEAT.)

**FLIP:**

Okay. Creeping me out now.

**TERRILL:**

You can always try to leave.

**FLIP:**

Eh?

**TERRILL:**

That tunnel is the way out. On you go. None of us will stand in your way.

**FLIP:**

This is a trick.

**TERRILL:**

You can try to leave, or you can stay.

**FLIP:**

Okay then.

(FX: FLIP MOVES AWAY ON THE WET GROUND. HESITATES.)

**FLIP:**

(CONTINUED) It's dark along there..

**TERRILL:**

Tunnels usually are. Hide all sorts of things. Are you going or aren't you?

**FLIP:**

Oh I'm going all right.

(FX: FLIP TAKES A COUPLE OF STEPS AWAY FROM US, THEN HALTS.)

A SUDDEN ANIMAL HISS CLOSE BY, FOLLOWED BY AN INSECTOID RATTLE AND THE CLITTER-CLATTER OF FAST APPROACHING GIANT ARACHNID LEGS.

THE HISS AGAIN, MUCH CLOSER. THIS THING IS BEARING DOWN US.)

**FLIP:**

(CRIES OUT) No!!!

**TERRILL:**

Well well. The brave little girl is afraid of spiders.

**FLIP:**

A spider twice the size of me, yeah!

(FX: THE GIANT SPIDER HISSES AND CLITTER-CLATTERS, INCREDIBLY CLOSE.)

**FLIP:**

Get it away from me!!!

**TERRILL:**

(LAUGHS)

**SCENE 18. EXT. ASPHYA – A FIELD.**

(FX: EXTERIOR ACOUSTIC. AN OPEN SPACE, A BREEZE BLOWING, LEAVES RUSTLING IN NEARBY TREES.

THE TARDIS MATERIALISES. ITS DOOR OPENS.)

**DOCTOR:**

(EMERGING) Are you well enough to walk?

**SARRA:**

(EMERGING) I'm fine. I'm just bruised, a few cuts. Where's this?

**DOCTOR:**

The planet Asphya, according to the Drachee. Emergency dematerialisation brought us to the nearest land mass. Rustically charming, isn't it?

**SARRA:**

It's a charming enough field. Wait a minute. Your ship. The inside was... But the outside is...

**DOCTOR:**

Well spotted. But a discussion for another time. Sarra. Asphya, does the name mean anything to you?

**SARRA:**

Should it?

**DOCTOR:**

You came here in that ship. Presumably for a purpose.

**SARRA:**

No. Asphya doesn't mean anything to me.

**DOCTOR:**

Shame. I was hoping the association might trigger a memory.

**SARRA:**

This is frightening. I remember nothing of my life before you saved me. I feel... hollow. How can I have no memory?

**DOCTOR:**

It could have been caused by the attack on your ship. The effects of extreme shock.

**REIVAL:**

(FROM MIDDLE DISTANCE) You there!

**DOCTOR:**

Oh. Hello.

**REIVAL:**

(APPROACHING) Your faces aren't known to me.

**DOCTOR:**

We are visitors.

**REIVAL:**

You are from the Great Darkness?

**DOCTOR:**

The Great Darkness?... Ah. If you mean outside this system, then yes.

**REIVAL:**

We don't have visitors on Asphya. It's not allowed.

**DOCTOR:**

Not allowed? By whom? The Drachee?

**REIVAL:**

You know the Drachee?

**DOCTOR:**

A brief acquaintance. They kidnapped a friend of mine. What can you tell me about them?

**REIVAL:**

It isn't safe here. We should get indoors. My village is nearby. We can talk there.

**SARRA:**

Why isn't it safe?

**REIVAL:**

The Drachee might come. They see us from the sky. Come, quickly.

**DOCTOR:**

Let's go with him.

(FX:           THEY START WALKING DOWN A DIRT TRACK.)

**DOCTOR:**

(CONTINUED) I'd like to know everything you can tell me about these Drachee. They live on your moon, yes? The moon Erys?

**REIVAL:**

Erys is more than just a moon.

**DOCTOR:**

Stop.

(FX: THEY COME TO A HALT ON THE TRACK.)

**REIVAL:**

Yes?

**DOCTOR:**

My friend might be up there. What do mean, more than just a moon? Is she in danger?

**REIVAL:**

If your friend is on Erys, she is in the most terrible danger.

**SCENE 19. ERY'S — MAIN CHAMBER.**

(FX: THE GIANT SPIDER, CLOSE AND THREATENING, ALL HISS AND CLICK-CLACK.)

**FLIP:**

Get back! Get... back!!

**TERRILL:**

(LAUGHS)

**DRACHEE:**

(JOINING IN TERRILL'S LAUGHTER)

(FX: SUDDENLY, THE SPIDER VANISHES. ALL SOUNDS AND MOVEMENTS STOP.)

**FLIP:**

(RECOVERING) What... ?

**TERRILL:**

It wasn't real. We placed it in your mind.

**FLIP:**

But... I could feel it. I could feel its legs on me.

**TERRILL:**

If we had wanted, you would have felt its jaws close on you.

**FLIP:**

That's cruel.

**TERRILL:**

You see now? You aren't going anywhere.

**ERY'S:**

(ANDROGYNOUS, REVERBERATING, ALL AROUND.) Enough.

**FLIP:**

Who's that?

**TERRILL:**

(COWED) We were only having a bit of fun with her.

**ERY'S:**

You could have broken her mind. And she is of value. Child? I apologise for your treatment. My Drachee are high spirited.

**FLIP:**

Your Drachee? Look this is an awkward conversation when I can't even see you. Why don't you come out?

**ERYs:**

But you can see me.

**FLIP:**

I can?... Where?

**ERYs:**

I am all around you. You are within me. I am Erys. I am the chamber you are standing in, and everything on this world. I am the living moon.

**FLIP:**

You're the moon??

**ERYs:**

And the Drachee are my children.

**END TITLES.**

**PART TWO**

MUSIC: OPENING TITLES

**REPRISE**

**ERYS:**

*I am all around you. You are within me. I am Erys. I am the chamber you are standing in, and everything on this world. I am the living moon.*

**FLIP:**

*You're the moon??*

**ERYS:**

*And the Drachee are my children.*

CUT TO:

**SCENE 20. ASPHYA – VILLAGE STREET.**

(FX: EXTERIOR ACOUSTIC. SEVERAL VILLAGERS MOVING THROUGH ON FOOT. THIS IS A SIMPLE, PRIMITIVE SOCIETY; NOT EVEN HORSES FOR TRANSPORT.)

THE DOCTOR, SARRA AND RENVAL MOVE QUICKLY ALONG THE DIRT STREET.)

**SARRA:**

Are you serious? Your moon is a living being?

**RENVAL:**

Questions later. We must hurry. When you are in the open, the Drachee can get you. This is the street.

**DOCTOR:**

Renval, this is kind but things have changed. I need to get to Erys.

**RENVAL:**

There are things you must know before you go there.

**SARRA:**

These people look so frightened. Of us.



**REIVAL:**

I told you, we don't have visitors. And they fear you will bring the Drachee.

**DOCTOR:**

They're really so afraid of them?

**REIVAL:**

They are the bane of our lives. Here, my home. Inside.

(FX: THE HEAVY WOODEN DOOR OF A COTTAGE IS OPENED.)

**DOCTOR:**

Thank you.

(FX: ALL THREE ENTER AND THE DOOR CLOSES.)

**SCENE 21. INT. RENTAL'S COTTAGE.**

(FX: A SMALL WOODEN-FLOORED LIVING SPACE. THE DOOR CLOSES, THREE SETS OF FOOTSTEPS MOVE ACROSS THE FLOOR. THE SCRAPE OF WOODEN CHAIRS BEING MOVED.)

**RENTAL:**

Sit, please. You'll be safe here.

**DOCTOR:**

What is it we need to know about Ery's?

**RENTAL:**

There is great danger in travelling to the beast.

**SARRA:**

How can your moon be alive? Where did it come from?

**RENTAL:**

It has always been there. It looks down on us from the heavens, and its children have their sport with us.

**DOCTOR:**

Its children. The Drachee are its children?

**RENTAL:**

They are born from inside the creature. They do its bidding. But they are the most impudent of children.

**SARRA:**

What do you mean?

**RENTAL:**

From time to time they come to Asphya to amuse themselves by harassing us. They come in their flying boxes.

**DOCTOR:**

The skimmers.

(FX: BEHIND THE FOLLOWING, A SOUNDTRACK TO RENTAL'S MEMORIES: SKIMMERS SWOOPING ON A CROWD, WHO SCREAM AND RUN IN PANIC. INDIVIDUAL HORRIFIED CRIES REACTING TO TERRIBLE IMPLANTED IMAGES. THEN AN ANGRY STRUGGLE, TWO MEN EXCHANGING BLOWS. AND THROUGHOUT, DRACHEE LAUGHING.)

**RENTAL:**

They reach inside our minds and create images. Experiences. Terrible things. And pain. They can control us, and set a

neighbour to fight with neighbour, for nothing more than their pleasure.

**SARRA:**

That's terrible.

**DOCTOR:**

I've experienced their mental powers.

**REIVAL:**

And sometimes, they take people.

**DOCTOR:**

Take them?

**REIVAL:**

When they play with our minds, it can happen that the mind breaks. When that happens, they take the person away.

**DOCTOR:**

What happens to them?

**REIVAL:**

(A MEMORY HITS HIM, HE IS STRUCK WITH EMOTION) They are... never seen again.

**DOCTOR:**

Reival? I'm sorry. You lost someone, didn't you?

(BEAT.)

**REIVAL:**

My brother. Three seasons ago. He challenged them. Everyone knows you must never do that. They turned on him. I will never know what torments they placed in his mind. But whatever they were, they were more than he could bear.

(FX: BEHIND THE FOLLOWING: A MAN IS WHIMPERING, HIS MIND BROKEN. THEN HE CRIES OUT AS HE IS DRAGGED OFF, INTO THE DISTANCE.)

**REIVAL:**

(CONTINUED) In front of the entire village, they destroyed his mind. Then they dragged him away, took him to Erys... I did not see him again.

**SARRA:**

I'm very sorry.

**REIVAL:**

If you go to Erys, Doctor, the Drachee will destroy you too.

**DOCTOR:**

I fought them off once. I can do it again.

**REIVAL:**

You will not prevail. Not on Erys.

**DOCTOR:**

I have to try. For my friend. She'll be waiting for me to come for her.

**REIVAL:**

It is probably already too late for her.

**SCENE 22. ERYs – MAIN CHAMBER.**

**FLIP:**

I'm – I'm not afraid.

**ERYs:**

I know that you are.

**FLIP:**

I've been on a kind of living world before. Symbios. But that was like a... thing. It couldn't speak. Are you speaking? Or are you in my head?

**ERYs:**

What an astute question. I am speaking. By the use of vibrating membranes in the wall of this chamber.

**FLIP:**

Clever you.

**ERYs:** (MENTAL PROJECTION)

(BOOMING INSIDE FLIP'S HEAD) I can also speak to you in your mind if you wish.

**FLIP:**

(WINCES, PAINED) No!... No.

**ERYs:**

I have found that humanoids prefer to communicate this way. I use the other for... persuasion.

**TERRILL:**

We like that. The persuasion.

**ERYs:**

Terrill. Get out. And take your brothers and sisters with you.

**TERRILL:**

Not fair! We want to stay. We want to see what – [you do]

**ERYs:** (MENTAL PROJECTION)

GO.

**TERRILL:**

(WHIMPERS, PAINED, THEN:) Yes, parent. (MOVING AWAY) Brothers, sisters, with me.

(FX: THE DRACHEE TRAIPISE OUT, THEIR CHATTER RECEDING INTO THE TUNNEL THEY DISAPPEAR ALONG.)

**TERRILL:**

(CONTINUED) (MOVING AWAY) Not fair. No fun. We brought her here.

**ERYS:**

Now. Child.

**FLIP:**

'Child'? Bit creepy.

**ERYS:**

I saved you for two reasons. The first was to find out why I was unable to destroy your ship, your blue capsule. Your... ah yes, TARDIS.

(FX: A SOUND WAVE, MENTAL EFFORT OF ERYs, A GENTLER VERSION OF THE FORCE USED AGAINST THE DOCTOR BY TERRILL. CONTINUING BEHIND THE FOLLOWING.)

**FLIP:**

What are you doing?

**ERYS:**

I am in your thoughts. I have only to ask you a question and the truth is revealed.

**FLIP:**

Don't.

**ERYS:**

You were thinking of lying. There would have been no point. And now you are trying to conceal your thoughts. You are trying to construct a mental wall.

**FLIP:**

(CONCENTRATING) Private...

**ERYS:**

You cannot hide your thoughts and knowledge from me.

**FLIP:**

(PAINED CRY)

**ERYS:**

You see? The wall you tried to build collapses so easily. Ah. How interesting. The blue capsule, the TARDIS, is a time and

space machine. And you believe it is indestructible. I doubt that.

**FLIP:**

If you say so...

**ERYs:**

And now you are thinking you might run for your life. You are thinking that with my Drachee absent you may not have to face the spider creature again.

**FLIP:**

(RESIGNED SIGH)

**ERYs:**

You answer your own question. You know the spider or worse will reappear. But still you consider running. Which would be foolhardy.

**FLIP:**

Stop mucking around in my head!

**ERYs:**

You have decided not to run. You harbour the hope – no, the belief – that a man will save you. A special man. The Doctor.

**FLIP:**

Why are you like this? Why attack us? Why keep me prisoner?

**ERYs:**

I act to defend myself and my children. Over the millennia many have come here. They came to lay claim to me and to Asphya. They came with plots to slay me or enslave me, to mine the minerals from my carcass, and take my children.

**FLIP:**

Do you attack every ship that comes here?

**ERYs:**

To protect my brood. Any ships that come close are a potential threat. The mining cartels of the neighbouring systems have tried many subterfuges to land their people here.

**FLIP:**

Those neighbours of yours have put up warning beacons to keep people away.

**ERYs:**

Good. I want nothing to do with the people of other worlds. And I don't want my Drachee having anything to do with them either.

**FLIP:**

If you can read my thoughts then you know I don't mean you any harm. Hang on – you said you saved me for two reasons. What's the other one?

**ERYs:**

The second is that you are to be integrated.

**FLIP:**

Integrated? What's that?

(FX: THE GROUND STARTS TO MOVE. SLIMY MUSCULAR ORGANIC MATERIAL SHIFTING WETLY. RIPPLING. SUCKING.)

**FLIP:**

(CONTINUED) I'm sinking ... What are you doing?!

**ERYs:**

You should not struggle. You cannot fight it. You are being drawn down into me.

(FX: THE SUCKING SLURPING PULL OF THE ORGANIC FLOOR EXERTS AN EVEN STRONGER FORCE, DRAGGING FLIP DOWN INTO A FISSURE OF FLESH.)

**FLIP:**

(STRUGGLING) I'm not going to be your dinner!

**ERYs:**

You have a purpose more useful than as food. It will be painless, if you do not resist.

(FX: FLIP IS SCRABBLING AT THE FLOOR AS SHE IS DRAGGED DOWN, NOW AT SHOULDER DEPTH. BUT HER FINGERS CAN'T GET PURCHASE ON THE SLICK SLIMY SURFACE.)

**FLIP:**

(STRUGGLING AGAINST THE SUCTION, AND FOR BREATH) Can't... get a grip. NO! (MUFFLED AS SHE GOES UNDER) No!...You don't need to do this! NO!!

(FX: FLIP FULLY SUBMERGES. HER VOICE IS CUT OFF AS THE FLESH FLOOR SHE HAS DISAPPEARED THROUGH RESEALS ITSELF WITH A WET SMACK.)



**SCENE 23. ASPHYA – A COUNTRY PATH.**

(FX: APPROACHING FOOTSTEPS – THE DOCTOR, SARRA AND RENVAL.)

**DOCTOR:**

(APPROACHING) Here we are.

(FX: THE DOCTOR OPENS THE TARDIS DOOR.)

**DOCTOR:**

We must hurry. The more I hear about Erys the more worried I become for Flip.

**RENVAL:**

I'm sorry I cannot come with you, Doctor.

**DOCTOR:**

Oh, Renval. Of course you must stay here with your people. In fact I'm not sure it's a good idea for you to come, Sarra. (BEAT.) Sarra?

**SARRA:**

(A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY) That moon up there. That creature. There's something... Something tugging at my memory.

**DOCTOR:**

A memory of Erys?

**SARRA:**

I don't know. But I'm going with you, Doctor. I have the strongest feeling that I'll find some answers up there.

**DOCTOR:**

If you're sure... In you go.

(FX: SARRA ENTERS THE TARDIS.)

**DOCTOR:**

Renval, thank you for your advice. It will be invaluable.

**RENVAL:**

Just keep yourself alive, Doctor. And keep your mind intact.

**DOCTOR:**

I'll certainly try. Goodbye for now.

(FX: THE DOCTOR ENTERS THE TARDIS, THE DOOR CLOSES. A MOMENT, THEN THE TARDIS DEMATERIALISES.)

**REVAL:**

(CATCHES HIS BREATH) Truly remarkable, Doctor... Good luck.

**SCENE 24. ERY'S - TUNNEL.**

(FX: A SMALL SPACE. TERRILL'S DRACHEE ARE GATHERED.)

**DRACHEE:**

(DISCONTENTED MUTTERINGS)

(FX: TERRILL WALKS TOWARDS US. THE FLOOR AGAIN IS ORGANIC AND DAMP.)

**TERRILL:**

(APPROACHING) Yes, brothers and sisters, I know. It is unfair. Our captive taken from us. To be integrated, when we could have learned from her. She could have told us of those other worlds that our parent is so keen we should know nothing about.

**DRACHEE:**

(AGREEMENT)

**TERRILL:**

We have often discussed how we are tired of being tied to the parent, of being forbidden even to talk of other worlds. Well I tell you that soon we will find a way to leave. The blue box would have been ideal. But there will be other opportunities.

**DRACHEE:**

(CHEER)

**TERRILL:**

Whether the parent likes it or not, we will go. We will explore. We will make a new life, where it is we who make the decisions for ourselves.

**DRACHEE:**

(EXCITED CHATTER)

**SCENE 25. ERY'S — INTEGRATION CHAMBER.**

(FX: A SMALL, DANK, TERRIBLE PLACE. SLIME DRIPPING FROM THE WALLS. A LARGE VAT OF THICK FLUID IS BUBBLING AND GLOOPING.)

A FLESH FISSURE OPENS IN THE CEILING AND FLIP DROPS THROUGH, LANDING ON THE ORGANIC FLOOR.)

**FLIP:**

(CRIES AS SHE FALLS, THEN GRUNTS ON IMPACT WITH THE FLOOR.)

**DRACHEE 1:**

(APPROACHING) Here she is. Not much to her, is there?

**DRACHEE 2:**

(APPROACHING) She'll do. She's in one piece at least.

**FLIP:**

(RISING TO HER FEET) What is this place?

**DRACHEE 1:**

This is where we does the preparing.

**DRACHEE 2:**

You're going to be prepared.

**FLIP:**

Prepared for what?

**DRACHEE 1:**

Enough talking. Get yourself over there, by the tank.

**FLIP:**

What's that in it? Looks like... eugh.

(FX: THE BUBBLING, GLOOPING LIQUID NOW CLOSER.)

**DRACHEE 1:**

Never you mind what it is. You're getting in it.

**FLIP:**

I'm not!

**DRACHEE 1:**

Ha. That's what they all say. "No no, please don't put me in there! Don't put me in the tank!" (LAUGHS)

**DRACHEE 2:**

'Course in the end, they don't have a choice.

**DRACHEE 1:** (MENTAL PROJECTION)

No choice at all.

**FLIP:**

(CRIES OUT IN PAIN, FIGHTING THE MENTAL COMMAND, BEHIND THE FOLLOWING:)

**DRACHEE 1:** (MENTAL PROJECTION)

Get in the tank, girl.

**DRACHEE 2:**

You won't drown. The fluid will enter your body, filling your lungs and permeating your blood system. But it will sustain you in a preserved state. Alive. Aware, but immobile. Ready for the next stage.

**FLIP:**

(PAINED) Next stage? What next stage?

**DRACHEE 1:** (MENTAL PROJECTION)

You'll see. Now climb in.

**FLIP:**

(STRAIN OF RESISTING) No... Won't.

**DRACHEE 1:** (MENTAL PROJECTION)

You're fighting it well. Some do. But you'll weaken soon.

**DRACHEE 2:**

I'll put the shackles on her.

(FX: THE RATTLE OF SHACKLES AS THE DRACHEE PICKS THEM UP AND ADVANCES ON FLIP.)

**DRACHEE 2:**

Don't be any trouble while I put these on you, girl.

**FLIP:**

Why don't you have them?! (A CRY OF EFFORT AS SHE THROWS THE SHACKLES BACK AT THE DRACHEE)

**DRACHEE 2:**

(CRIES AS HE IS STRUCK BY THE SHACKLES.) My face!

**DRACHEE 1:**

You idiot! Grab her!

**FLIP:**

(RUNNING OFF) See you, you mugs!

(FX: FLIP RUNS OFF DOWN A SIDE TUNNEL.)

**DRACHEE 2:**

We've got to get after her.

**DRACHEE 1:**

We don't leave the place of preparing, you know that. But it doesn't matter, there's nowhere she can hide. It's only a matter of time before they pick her up and bring her back.

**SCENE 26. INT. TARDIS CONTROL ROOM.**

(FX: THE TARDIS IN FLIGHT. THE DOCTOR OPERATING CONTROLS ON THE CONSOLE.)

**DOCTOR:**

We'll be there in no time.

**SARRA:**

(QUIET) Good.

**DOCTOR:**

Are you all right?

**SARRA:**

I thought something might have come back to me by now.

**DOCTOR:**

Give it time.

**SARRA:**

Even this incredible ship of yours can't take my mind off it. This is the most amazing machine I've ever travelled in.

**DOCTOR:**

The TARDIS would thank you for saying so. And I tell you what, she has a wardrobe down the corridor. Those clothes you're wearing are torn from when your ship was attacked. There's time for you to change.

**SARRA:**

These'll do for now. I checked the pockets to see if I was carrying anything that might give me a clue to who I am.

**DOCTOR:**

You had no luck, I take it?

**SARRA:**

There's this pendant, but that's just a stone on a chain. It doesn't suggest anything to me.

**DOCTOR:**

And that's all-?

**SARRA:**

Seems like it -

(FX: SHE PATS HER CLOTHES WITH HER HANDS AS SHE SPEAKS, AND NOW HALTS.)

**SARRA:**

Hang on. What's this?

**DOCTOR:**

What?

**SARRA:**

There's something here, under the pocket, in the lining of my trousers.

**DOCTOR:**

In the lining?

**SARRA:**

I can feel its outline. A small square of something. It must have been stitched in there.

(FX: A SHORT RIP OF FABRIC.)

**SARRA:**

(CONTINUED) It's a phototablet... Why would I — ? Oh.

**DOCTOR:**

What's the photograph?

**SARRA:**

Two children. Girls. No older than eleven or twelve. Cute things. Blonde. (A SUDDEN GASP, THE SHOCK OF REALISATION)

**DOCTOR:**

Sarra??

**SARRA:**

They're my children! They're my daughters!

**DOCTOR:**

You remember?

**SARRA:**

I'm a mother! I'm a mother to... Jen and Mya. That's who they are — Jen and Mya! Oh Gods, how could I have forgotten I was a mother?

**DOCTOR:**

And why did you have a phototablet of them hidden in the lining of your trousers?



**SARRA:**

It makes no sense.

**DOCTOR:**

What else can you remember? Do you know where you're from? Do you remember their father?

**SARRA:**

I don't... I can't...

**ELGIN:** (RADIO FILTER - IN SARRA'S HEAD)  
Stop!!

**SARRA:**

(FRIGHTENED) What? Who's that?

**ELGIN:** (RADIO FILTER - IN SARRA'S HEAD)  
Remember nothing else!

**DOCTOR:**

Sarra, what are you talking about?

**ELGIN:** (RADIO FILTER - IN SARRA'S HEAD)

You have a purpose here. You have a plan. Stick to the plan.

**SARRA:**

Who are you? Where are you? What plan?

**DOCTOR:**

Sarra, who are you talking to?

**SARRA:**

Can you hear that?

**DOCTOR:**

Hear what?

**ELGIN:** (RADIO FILTER - IN SARRA'S HEAD)

Do not let this Doctor know you can hear me. It could ruin everything. Trust me. You know you can trust my voice. You know this.

**SARRA:**

It was... nothing. Just talking to myself.

**DOCTOR:**

Let me have a look at you.

**ELGIN:** (RADIO FILTER - IN SARRA'S HEAD)

Do not trust him. Trust only my voice.

**SARRA:**

I'm not crazy.

**DOCTOR:**

I'm not suggesting you are.

(FX: THE TARDIS ENGINES GO THROUGH THEIR LANDING CYCLE.)

**SARRA:**

Have we arrived?

**DOCTOR:**

Yes, but I really think you should let me examine - [you]

**SARRA:**

(COLLECTING HERSELF, CALMING DOWN) No. We have to get out there and find your friend.

**DOCTOR:**

Of course. Just let me know if you feel unwell.

(FX: THE TARDIS DOORS OPEN.)

**SCENE 27. EXT. ERY'S — SURFACE.**

(FX: A BLEAK LANDSCAPE. THERE IS A WIND LIKE A WHISPERED WAIL. THE GROUND IS HARD AND GRITTY UNDERFOOT.

THE TARDIS DOOR OPENS. THE DOCTOR AND SARRA STEP OUT.)

**DOCTOR:**

Welcome to Ery's. Not the most hospitable of environments.

**SARRA:**

(STILL A LITTLE DISTRACTED FROM HEARING THE VOICE IN HER EAR)  
Is that the sound of the creature?

**DOCTOR:**

That's the wind. It makes that sound as it passes through those fissures in the surface. Unsettling, isn't it?

**SARRA:**

This is really a living being? It looks like... well, it looks like a planet should look. It has geological features. Hills, cliffs, even vegetation. The ground is solid.

**DOCTOR:**

Living planets are a mixture of flesh and mineral, encased within a solid carapace. Be grateful for it. It means the creature is unlikely to realise that we're here. And the other features are growths that have developed on the carapace.

**SARRA:**

And the vegetation?

**DOCTOR:**

Fungus.

**SARRA:**

Oh nice.

(FX: THE DOCTOR CLOSES THE TARDIS DOOR AND STRIDES OFF, BEHIND THE FOLLOWING.)

**DOCTOR:**

But come on. We have to find Flip, and to do that we'll have to find some way of communicating with this creature. We should look for a way underground.

**SARRA:**

We'll find a way if we head for the cliffs.

(FX: THE DOCTOR COMES TO A HALT.)

**DOCTOR:**

Will we? How do you know?

**SARRA:**

(CONFUSED) I... I don't know why I said that. It just came to me.

**DOCTOR:**

You know this place?

**SARRA:**

No... I don't know. Maybe. But how could I?

**DOCTOR:**

It's possible. In fact, it might offer an explanation for your amnesia. If you've met the Drachee before and they've affected your mind.

**SARRA:**

That's an unpleasant thought.

(FX: THEY BOTH WALK ON.)

**SARRA:**

(CONTINUED) Maybe I have been here before. The hills look familiar. And I have an impression of... caves? Openings in the cliff face at ground level.

**DOCTOR:**

Nothing's visible from this distance. But we'll soon see. There's a fair distance to – Hello, what's this?

(FX: THEY COME TO A HALT.)

**SARRA:**

The remains of some kind of machine?

**DOCTOR:**

It's been taken apart. Violently. By the Drachee no doubt.

(FX: THEY COME TO A HALT.)

**DOCTOR:**

(CONTINUED) This looks like a CPU.

**SARRA:**

CPU?

**DOCTOR:**

Central Processing Unit. The key component of a computer. And over there is a motor. Pieces of caterpillar track. A camera. There's circuitry everywhere.

**SARRA:**

What is it? Was it?

**DOCTOR:**

A robot of some kind, I'd say. Fairly basic, with telemetry. It would have been controlled remotely.

**SARRA:**

(A SHARP INTAKE OF BREATH AS ANOTHER MEMORY HITS HER)

**DOCTOR:**

Sarra?

**SARRA:**

I'm remembering...

**DOCTOR:**

What?

**SARRA:**

A place. A world. Two suns in a blue sky. A large city. Silver towers, by the ocean...

**ELGIN:** (RADIO FILTER - IN SARRA'S HEAD)

Enough!

**DOCTOR:**

Sarra? What's wrong?

**ELGIN:** (RADIO FILTER - IN SARRA'S HEAD)

Memories are breaking through. You must resist them.

**SARRA:**

I... Nothing's wrong, Doctor.

**DOCTOR:**

Are you sure?

**SARRA:**

I'm sure.

**ELGIN:** (RADIO FILTER - IN SARRA'S HEAD)

Remember no more. It is dangerous. Move on.

**SARRA:**

We should move on.

**DOCTOR:**

One moment.

(FX: THE DOCTOR STARTS SIFTING THROUGH METAL PANELS AND CIRCUIT BOARDS ON THE GROUND.)

**DOCTOR:**

(CONTINUED) This is odd. It was obviously sent here for a purpose, discovered by the Drachee and destroyed.

**SARRA:**

Is it important?

IMMEDIATE CUT TO:

**SCENE 28. EXT. ERY'S — SURFACE, NEARBY (CONTINUOUS).**

(FX: A VANTAGE POINT ABOUT A HUNDRED YARDS FROM THE PREVIOUS SCENE.)

**DOCTOR:**

(IN DISTANCE) It might be. It might be very important.

**TERRILL:**

(CLOSE ON MIC) Well, my brothers and sisters, what have we here? The Doctor, and he has a new friend. Come to visit us. That is brave.

**DRACHEE:**

(QUIET, EXCITED CHATTER)

**TERRILL:**

And over there, his blue ship. (LAUGHS) We will have it for ourselves after all. Forward, but softly. Go to ground. Keep low, use the fissures to hide. We will have the element of surprise.

(FX: TERRILL AND HIS DRACHEE MOVE AWAY, LOW ON THE GROUND, SCRAPING THE HARD SURFACE WITH THEIR LIMBS AS THEY CRAWL AND SLIDE.)

**SCENE 29. INT. ERY'S — BIRTHING TUNNEL.**

(FX: A NARROW, DAMP, ECHOING AVENUE. A STEADY TRICKLE OF FLUID DOWN THE WALLS.)

FLIP RUNS TOWARDS US ON WET GROUND. COMES TO A HALT.)

**FLIP:**

(PANTING AFTER EFFORT OF RUNNING) Oh come on, Flip! You must be able to find a way out of this place!

(FX: CLOSE TO US, A GLOOP OF FLUID, FOLLOWED BY A TEARING, STRETCHING SOUND. THIN FLESH RIPS, AND A SIZEABLE QUANTITY OF LIQUID SPILLS ON THE FLOOR.)

**FLIP:**

Eugh! Gross! These trainers are definitely ruined.

(FX: THE FLESH OF THE WALL SLIDES WETLY APART AND THERE IS THE SOUND OF SUCTION, AN OBJECT FORCING ITSELF OUT, UNTIL THE SUCTION TENSION BREAKS AND AN OBJECT, A BODY, HITS THE FLOOR.)

**LONA:**

(THROUGH A MEMBRANE, MOANS)

**FLIP:**

Is there someone in there?

**LONA:**

(THROUGH THE MEMBRANE: MOANS, SLOWLY RECOVERING)

**FLIP:**

Are you okay? Is this like one of their vacuum cloaks? Did they catch you like me? Did they put you in the wall?

**LONA:**

(THROUGH THE MEMBRANE, NOW ALERT) No.

(FX: THE VISCOUS MEMBRANE SURROUNDING LONA TEARS AS SHE PULLS AT IT AND EMERGES.)

**LONA:**

(EFFORT OF RISING) This is my biological membrane.

**FLIP:**

You're a Drachee.



**LONA:**

I am... (CONCENTRATING, ACCLIMATISING)... Yes. I am Drachee, and I am called... Lona.

**FLIP:**

What was that all about? What were you doing in the wall?

**LONA:**

This is the birthing flesh. I am newborn.

**FLIP:**

Newborn?

**LONA:**

From the flesh of Erys. Nurtured in the membrane until mature as you see me now.

**FLIP:**

This is how Drachee are born?

**LONA:**

All Drachee are made this way.

**FLIP:**

Are we going to be friends?

**LONA:**

Friends?

**FLIP:**

Well you haven't tried to hurt me. Yet. Or throw me in a tank full of gloop.

**LONA:**

You... You are to be integrated.

**FLIP:**

Oh no.

**LONA:** (MENTAL PROJECTION)

You must be integrated.

**FLIP:**

Ah! (BRACES HERSELF FOR THE PAIN OF MENTAL COERCION, BUT IT DOESN'T COME) Hey. You're not doing it. I can feel you trying, I feel you in my mind, but you're not controlling me.

**LONA:**

(CONCENTRATING) I... will.

**FLIP:**

You've not matured as much as you thought. Got some more tricks to learn.

**LONA:**

You will be integrated. (STRIKES OUT)

**FLIP:**

Oh no you don't. (GRUNTS AS SHE PUSHES LONA)

**LONA:**

(GRUNTS AS SHE FALLS BACK AND DOWN)

(FX: LONA HITS THE FLOOR WITH A SPLASH.)

**FLIP:**

You can consider that your christening!

(FX: FLIP RUNS OFF.)

**FLIP:**

(RUNNING AWAY) See ya!

(FX: LONA LIFTS HERSELF FROM THE FLOOR.)

**LONA:**

(CALLING) Run where you like. I'll find you. Then you'll see what I can do. I'm coming for you.

(FX: LONA WALKS AFTER FLIP.)

**SCENE 30. EXT. ERYs – SURFACE.**

(FX: THE DOCTOR DISCARDS SOME CIRCUIT BOARDS HE WAS EXAMINING, THROWN TO THE DIRT FLOOR.)

**DOCTOR:**

Nothing. I'd hoped the circuit boards might tell us something about where this thing came from, but they're burnt out and useless.

**SARRA:**

Then let's go.

**DOCTOR:**

Yes, let's find Flip.

(FX: DISTURBANCES IN THE GROUND AS DRACHEE APPEAR FROM OUT OF FISSURES AROUND THEM.)

**DRACHEE:**

(EXCITED CHATTER)

**TERRILL:**

(EFFORT OF CLIMBING OUT AND STANDING) Hello again, Doctor.

**DOCTOR:**

Ah. Hello. Sarra, let me introduce Terrill and his Drachee siblings.

**SARRA:**

These are Drachee?

**TERRILL:**

You were lucky before, Doctor. But this time you will give us your ship.

**DOCTOR:**

We've had this conversation. It didn't end well for you.

**TERRILL:**

We want a star ship. We need a star ship. We will have yours. It's special. None has survived an attack before.

**DOCTOR:**

You're not having it. Now tell me, where is Flip?

**TERRILL:**

You are strong of mind, Doctor. You were victorious before, and I don't intend to try you again. But I am prepared to break the mind of this female unless you give us your ship.

**DOCTOR:**

Don't threaten me. Answer my question. Where is Flip? What have you done with her?

**TERRILL:**

We have done nothing. (A LIGHT LAUGH) It is the parent who has integrated her.

**DOCTOR:**

Integrated?

**TERRILL:**

I will ask only once more, Doctor. Will you give us your ship?

**DOCTOR:**

What do you mean, 'integrated'?

**TERRILL:**

She has become part of the parent. (MENTAL PROJECTION) As will this one. (STRAINS WITH MENTAL EFFORT)

(FX: TERRILL PROJECTS HIS MENTAL FORCE.)

**SARRA:**

Are you trying to hurt me?

**TERRILL:** (MENTAL PROJECTION)

(STRAINING) Brothers. Sisters. Join me.

**DRACHEE:** (MENTAL PROJECTION)

(CONCENTRATED CHATTER)

**TERRILL:** (MENTAL PROJECTION)

This isn't possible. Why does she not respond?

**DOCTOR:**

She has no memories.

(FX: TERRILL'S MENTAL FORCE CEASES.)

**TERRILL:**

(BREAKS OFF HIS EFFORT, RECOVERS FROM THE STRAIN) No memories?

**SARRA:**

I have almost no recollection of who I am, creature.

**DOCTOR:**

You play with the fear centres of the brain, don't you? You identify and grotesquely amplify those things that have caused a person fear in their past. But Sarra has no memories like that.

**TERRILL:**

It's a trick.

**DOCTOR:**

She's immune to you.

**TERRILL:**

What is she? What are you?

**DOCTOR:**

Is Flip still alive?

**TERRILL:**

(COWED) Integration doesn't kill. She lives.

**DOCTOR:**

You had better be telling the truth. Take me to her.

**TERRILL:**

Only the parent can tell you where she is. Only Erys.

**DOCTOR:**

Then take me somewhere where I can communicate with Erys.

**TERRILL:**

You can speak with the parent. Come.

(FX: TERRILL AND THE DRACHEE MOVE AWAY.)

**DOCTOR:**

(QUIET) Stay alert, Sarra. They're tricky.

**SARRA:**

(QUIET) They seem harmless when they can't use their mind games.

**DOCTOR:**

Don't you believe it. Come on, let's follow.

(FX: THE DOCTOR AND SARRA START WALKING.)

(CONTINUED) Look up ahead. Caves in the cliff face. Just like you said.

**SCENE 31. INT. SKIMMER CHAMBER / SKIMMER.**

(FX: A LARGE SPACE. LIMITED ECHO, AS ONE END IS OPEN TO THE ELEMENTS.)

FLIP RUNS IN ON A HARD FLOOR AND COMES TO A HALT.)

**FLIP:**

Daylight! I thought I'd never see it again. And — oh. Hello. Just what I need.

**LONA:**

(FROM FAR DOWN THE TUNNEL BEHIND) Where are you girl? You can't hide for long!

(FX: A SKIMMER CANOPY OPENS. FLIP BEGINS TO CLIMB IN.)

**FLIP:**

(CALLING, WHILE CLIMBING INTO THE SKIMMER) Sorry to leave you, Lona, but I've found your garage! Hope you don't mind if I borrow one of your skimmers?

(FX: WE MOVE WITH FLIP INTO THE SKIMMER AS SHE SEALS THE CANOPY. THE ACOUSTIC CHANGES — WE ARE NOW WITHIN THE SKIMMER'S CRAMPED CONFINES.)

**FLIP:**

How hard can it be to fly one of these?

(FX: FLIP FLICKS A SWITCH. THE ENGINE ACTIVATES WITH AN IMMEDIATE AND INTENSE THRUST OF POWER. THE SKIMMER SHOOTS FORWARD AND FLIP IS THROWN BACK IN HER SEAT BY THE G-FORCE.)

**FLIP:**

Aaaaaah!!!

(FX: THE SKIMMER CONTINUES AT FULL THRUST, WITH FLIP STRUGGLING IN HER SEAT.)

**FLIP:**

(STRUGGLING AGAINST THE G-FORCE, STRAINING TO REACH THE CONTROLS.)

(FX: FLIP HITS A CONTROL BUTTON. THE SKIMMER SLOWS CONSIDERABLY, BUT ITS ENGINES ARE STILL BURNING, IT IS STILL MOVING AT SPEED EVEN THOUGH CONDITIONS ARE MORE COMFORTABLE.)

**FLIP:**

(SIGH OF RELIEF) That's better. But... where's the steering wheel? I mean – honestly.

**LONA:** (MENTAL PROJECTION)

Do you hear me, child?

**FLIP:**

Lona?

**LONA:** (MENTAL PROJECTION)

Don't be afraid. Well, no more afraid than you should. I'm not going to harm you.

**FLIP:**

In which case, you couldn't tell me if there's a flying manual in here somewhere?

**LONA:** (MENTAL PROJECTION)

You cannot control the skimmer. It requires a psychic connection with a Drachee. It is also not made for long distance travel. You are flying out into space. You will keep going. You will run out of fuel and you will die.

**FLIP:**

(AFRAID, TRYING TO HIDE IT) Cheery, aren't you?

**LONA:** (MENTAL PROJECTION)

You would have been unsuitable for integration. You are too troublesome.

**FLIP:**

I'll take that as a compliment.

**LONA:** (MENTAL PROJECTION)

GOODBYE.

**FLIP:**

Goodbye yourself. (PAUSE) Lona, you still there? (PAUSE) Oi!

(FX: THE SKIMMER NOW HEARD FROM OUTSIDE, THE ENGINE POWERING IT AWAY FROM US. FLIP HEARD AS A TRAPPED VOICE WITHIN THE CANOPY, GETTING FAINTER AS SHE MOVES AWAY.)

**FLIP:**

(CONTINUED) (THROUGH THE CANOPY) Lona, talk to me. There has to be a way to steer this thing. Lona? Lona, speak to me!



(FX: THE SKIMMER POWERS OFF INTO THE DISTANCE UNTIL IT AND FLIP CAN NO LONGER BE HEARD.)

**SCENE 32. INT. ERYs – MAIN CHAMBER.**

(FX: THE DOCTOR AND SARRA ENTER, ACCOMPANIED BY THE DRACHEE.)

**TERRILL:**

This is the place of speaking.

**DOCTOR:**

Then I'll speak. I'm addressing the entity known as Erys. Can you hear me?

(PAUSE.)

**DOCTOR:**

Speak to me.

(PAUSE.)

**SARRA:**

Giving you the cold shoulder. If moons have a shoulder?

**DOCTOR:**

Erys, if you can hear me I am the – [Doctor]

**ERYs:**

I know who you are, Doctor.

**DOCTOR:**

I've come here for – [my friend]

**ERYs:**

You have come here for your friend, Flip. You imagine also that you may persuade me to stop my children from entertaining themselves with the inhabitants of Asphyra. In both these things you will be disappointed.

**DOCTOR:**

I'm impressed. Very few telepathic beings are able to read a Time Lord's mind.

**ERYs:**

I can read only the most prominent thoughts in your mind. The rest of you is closed to me. For now.

**DOCTOR:**

I must insist on seeing Flip, and I will put the case for the Asphyans.

**ERYs:**

There is much you do not know or understand about the people of Asphya.

**DOCTOR:**

I say again, I insist on seeing Flip.

**ERYs:**

She is no longer here.

**DOCTOR:**

What does that mean?

**ERYs:**

She is gone, that is enough.

**DOCTOR:**

Where is Flip? Where has she gone?

**ERYs:**

Who is this female?

**DOCTOR:**

I've asked you a question!

**ERYs:**

The female has no story. She is empty. I don't... I can't read her thoughts at all.

**DOCTOR:**

She's with me. And she has amnesia. Which makes her immune to you and your... (REALISATION SUDDENLY DAWNS) Amnesia is the perfect defence from you and your Drachee. Sarra? I think your loss of memory is deliberate. Designed to protect you from these beings. From Erys.

**ERYs:**

What is wrong with her? Why does she not respond?

**DOCTOR:**

Sarra, can you hear me?

**ELGIN:** (RADIO FILTER - IN SARRA'S HEAD)

Sarra. The word is - Nemesis. Use the pendant. Do it, do it now.

**SARRA:**

(EMOTIONLESS, TRANCE-LIKE) Yes. Yes, I have to use the pendant...

(FX: SARRA SNAPS THE PENDANT AT HER NECK. A TWIST OF A METAL THREAD, AND A RAPID BUILD UP OF POWER.)

**SARRA:**

There... I have to throw the pendant... there.

**DOCTOR:**

The pendant. Oh no. Sarra, NO!

**ERYS:**

Stop her!

**SARRA:**

(EMOTIONLESS) Die! (EFFORT OF THROWING)

(FX: THE PENDANT BOMB LANDS ON THE FAR FLOOR.)

**DOCTOR:**

It's a bomb! Everybody, get down! Terrill!

**TERRILL:**

She tries to kill the parent?

**DOCTOR:**

Down!!

(FX: THE POWER SURGE OF THE BOMB BUILDS TO A PEAK. AS IT DOES, MUCUS BUBBLES UP FROM THE FLOOR. THE TONE OF THE POWER SURGE IS MUFFLED AS THE MUCUS SUBMERGES IT.

THE BOMB EXPLODES, BUT MUTED, ITS EFFECT CONTAINED BY THE MUCUS.)

**TERRILL:**

(COWERING, AFRAID) What happened?

**DOCTOR:**

Erys smothered the bomb with a mucus-like secretion. It contained the explosion.

**SARRA:**

(ALERT AGAIN) What... ? What was that? What did I just do?

**ERYS:**

Drachee. Hold them!!

**DRACHEE:**

(EXCITED AS THEY SWARM FROWARD)

**TERRILL:**

She tried to kill the parent!

**SARRA:**

(STRUGGLING) No!

**DOCTOR:**

(WHILE JOSTLED BY THE DRACHEE) Sarra, don't struggle. Erys, there's no need for this!

**ERYS:**

You dare try to assassinate me??

**DOCTOR:**

Erys, look at her. She clearly wasn't responsible for her actions.

**ERYS:**

She is an assassin! You will both pay for this outrage! But first...witness this, Doctor.

(FX: A THRUM OF PSYCHIC ENERGY AS ERYs INTRUDES FORCEFULLY INTO THE DOCTOR'S PSYCHE.)

**DOCTOR:**

(IN PAIN) What are you doing in my head? I see... I see the TARDIS.

**ERYS:**

You see it as it is, on my surface. Watch. As I rid myself of it.

(FX: HEARD AS IF IN THE MIDDLE DISTANCE: A RUMBLE, AN EARTH TREMOR BUILDING UP. THEN AN EXPLOSIVE ERUPTION OF SOIL AND FRACTURED CARAPACE.)

**DOCTOR:**

No!

**ERYS:**

Yes, Doctor. Your TARDIS is expelled from my surface. Expelled into space.

**DOCTOR:**

No...

**ERYS:**

You will spend the rest of your life here.

**CRASH IN CLOSING THEME**

**PART THREE**

**MUSIC: OPENING THEME**

REPRISE

**DOCTOR:**

*(IN PAIN) What are you doing in my head? I see... I see the TARDIS.*

**ERYs:**

*You see it as it is, on my surface. Watch. As I rid myself of it.*

*(FX: HEARD AS IF IN THE MIDDLE DISTANCE: A RUMBLE, AN EARTH TREMOR BUILDING UP. THEN AN EXPLOSIVE ERUPTION OF SOIL AND FRACTURED CARAPACE.)*

**DOCTOR:**

*No!*

**ERYs:**

*Yes, Doctor. Your TARDIS is expelled from my surface. Expelled into space.*

**DOCTOR:**

*No...*

**ERYs:**

*You will spend the rest of your life here.*

**SCENE 33. [CONTINUOUS]**

**DOCTOR:**

*Erys, there's no need for this.*

**ERYs:**

*Silence! Terrill, place them both against the wall.*

**TERRILL:**

*Yes, parent. (TO DOCTOR AND SARRA) Over there.*

*(FX: THE DOCTOR AND SARRA ARE TAKEN A SHORT DISTANCE.)*

**TERRILL:**

*Both of you. Hands against the wall.*

**SARRA:**

I'm scared.

**DOCTOR:**

Be brave.

**TERRILL:**

They are ready.

**ERYs:**

Do not move, either of you.

(FX: A MOLTEN VISCOUS SECRETION BUBBLES UP AND FLOWS.)

**SARRA:**

(DISGUSTED CRY) What's it doing?!

**DOCTOR:**

Don't panic. It's only covering our hands and feet. It's the same secretion Erys used to cover the bomb.

**SARRA:**

But why?

**DOCTOR:**

I imagine it sets like concrete. It's one way of keeping your prisoners where you can see them, I suppose.

**ERYs:**

Correct, Doctor.

(FX: THE FLOW OF SECRETION STOPS.)

**SARRA:**

I feel it setting around my hands already.

**DOCTOR:**

Not the most dignified of restraints.

**ELGIN:** (RADIO FILTER - IN SARRA'S HEAD)

Sarra? Sarra, what's happening? Are you all right?

**SARRA:**

That voice again. I don't know who you are! How are you speaking to me?

**ELGIN:** (RADIO FILTER - IN SARRA'S HEAD)

I can't explain. Not yet. It's not safe.

**ERY'S:**

I detect a micro audio transceiver that has been surgically implanted in the canal of your right ear.

**SARRA:**

Surgically implanted??

**ELGIN:** (RADIO FILTER - IN SARRA'S HEAD)

Sarra, you have to get yourself out of there. I can't come to get you.

**SARRA:**

Whoever you are, help me, please!

**ELGIN:** (RADIO FILTER - IN SARRA'S HEAD)

I wish I could.

**ERY'S:**

I can feel the device with my mind. I can also crush it.

(FX: MENTAL ENERGY FLOWS FROM ERY'S.)

**ELGIN:** (RADIO FILTER - IN SARRA'S HEAD)

Sarra? Sarra, be brave. Be -

[FX: A BRIEF BURST OF STATIC CUTS HIM OFF, THEN THERE IS SILENCE. THE TRANSCIEVER HAS BEEN DESTROYED.]

**SARRA:**

(CRIES OUT AT A SUDDEN SHARP PAIN IN HER EAR.)



**SCENE 34. INT. SKIMMER.**

(FX: SKIMMER AMBIENCE. THE ENGINES ARE STILL THROTTLING, THRUSTING THE SKIMMER THROUGH SPACE AT GREAT SPEED.

FLIP IS TRYING VARIOUS SWITCHES AND BUTTONS.)

**FLIP:**

Oh come on. One of these has to be a steering control.

(FX: A BURST OF RADIO STATIC.)

**FLIP:**

(CONTINUED) Or a radio! Hello? Hello? Can anyone hear me?

(FX: HER REPLY IS ANOTHER BURST OF STATIC.)

**FLIP:**

(CONTINUED) Anyone? This is Flip Jackson. Hello? Mayday! SOS!... Help!

(FX: MORE RADIO STATIC.)

**FLIP:**

(CONTINUED) I'm stuck on a spacecraft that I can't steer. I'm heading into - [space]

(FX: THE SKIMMER'S ENGINES STALL, POWER DOWN AND STOP.)

**FLIP:**

(CONTINUED) Oh great. And now I've run out of fuel. I'm drifting! Can anyone hear me?

(FX: AN EXTENDED BURST OF STATIC.)

**FLIP:**

(CONTINUED) Oh Flip. This doesn't look good.

**SCENE 35. INT. ERYs - MAIN CHAMBER.**

(CONTINUOUS FROM SCENE 33.)

**DOCTOR:**

Sarra?

**SARRA:**

(RECOVERING) I'm all right. A pain in my ear. Gone now. The voice has stopped.

**DOCTOR:**

Erys, can't you see? This woman had no control over her actions. She was clearly in an hypnotic state. She is being used by others!

**ERYs:**

I see you were unaware of her intentions, Doctor. But nonetheless you brought her here. You endangered me and my children.

**SARRA:**

Is it... is it going to kill us?

**ERYs:**

I will defend myself and my brood. I do not yet know what I'll do with you. You are not suitable for integration.

**DOCTOR:**

What is 'integration'? Is that what happened to Flip? I demand to know - [where she is]

**ERYs:**

You will demand NOTHING! Do not provoke me.

**TERRILL:**

Shouldn't have sent his blue ship away.

**ERYs:**

What did you say, Terrill?

**TERRILL:**

(NERVOUS) I said, you shouldn't have got rid of his TARDIS.

**DRACHEE:**

(CHATTER OF AGREEMENT)

**TERRILL:**

That ship was special. We could have learned from it. We could have used it.

**ERYs:**

I will not encourage learning of alien ways.

**TERRILL:**

But it's not fair, we could – [learn from them]

**ERYs:**

No more of this! Get out! Get out, all of you! It's time for your nutrition cycle. Go.

**TERRILL:**

(SULKING) We're going.

(FX; TERRILL AND THE DRACHEE DEPART.)

**DOCTOR:**

Nutrition cycle?

**ERYs:**

You will be silent. I am scanning space to see if there are friends of this woman nearby. More of the cartel's agents.

**SARRA:**

(WHISPER) Doctor. What if there are others here with me?

**DOCTOR:**

(WHISPER) If there are, I think they're in trouble.

**SCENE 36. INT. ERY'S — TUNNEL.**

(FX: ECHOING, DANK, A TRICKLE OF FLUID FROM THE WALLS.

TERRILL AND THE DRACHEE ARE WALKING TOWARDS US.)

**TERRILL:**

(APPROACHING) Hello, what's this?

(FX: TERRILL AND THE DRACHEE COME TO A HALT.)

**TERRILL:**

(CONTINUED) We have a new sister, it seems. Wake up, sister.

**LONA:**

(REVIVING FROM UNCONSCIOUSNESS AS TERRILL SHAKES HER.) Hmm?  
What?

**TERRILL:**

I'm Terrill. Has the parent given you a name yet?

**LONA:**

(DROWSY) I am called Lona.

**TERRILL:**

Welcome, Lona. How long since your birthing?

**LONA:**

An hour. Maybe more.

**TERRILL:**

You need a nutrition feed. Come with us. There's a nutrient chamber near here that we're heading for. We'll get you some clothes on the way.

**LONA:**

(STANDING) I was tired from exertion. There was an alien girl. We fought.

**TERRILL:**

The Doctor's friend. Where is she?

**LONA:**

Dead now. Probably. She took a skimmer.

**TERRILL:**

Not good for anyone but a Drachee, our skimmers.

**LONA:**

She knows that now. Too late of course.

**TERRILL:**

Come on, newborn. Let's get you some nutrient before you fall over again.

**LONA:**

Lead and I will follow, Terrill.

(FX: THE GROUP MOVE OFF DOWN THE TUNNEL.)

**SCENE 37. INT. ERYs — MAIN CHAMBER.**

(FX: WE ESTABLISH THE AMBIENCE OF THE CHAMBER. THERE IS A TRICKLE OF AN OOZING SUBSTANCE CLOSE TO US.)

**DOCTOR:**

Erys? (PAUSE) Erys, can you hear me?

(PAUSE.)

**SARRA:**

Has it gone?

**DOCTOR:**

Perhaps it can't concentrate on more than one thing at a time.

**SARRA:**

Meaning?

**DOCTOR:**

If it's mentally scanning nearby space, this chamber has probably become part of its subconscious.

(FX: THE DOCTOR TWISTS HIS HAND WITHIN THE LUMP OF HARDENED SECRETION. THERE IS A SLIGHT CRACK IN THE ROCK-LIKE SUBSTANCE.)

**DOCTOR:**

(CONTINUED) If it's distracted for just a little while longer, that might give us a chance to (EFFORT OF TWISTING HIS HAND IN ITS CONFINEMENT) get out of here.

(FX: THE HARDENED SECRETION CRACKS SLIGHTLY.)

**SARRA:**

You moved your hand!

**DOCTOR:**

(EFFORT OF WORKING HIS TRAPPED HAND FREE) The secretion around my left hand didn't settle as thick as the rest. It's still... brittle.

(FX: THE HARDENED MATERIAL CRACKS WIDE OPEN, PARTS OF IT FALL TO THE FLOOR.)

**DOCTOR:**

Ha! Done it! One hand free at least.

**SARRA:**

But the rest is set like stone.

**DOCTOR:**

As is so often the case, I have an idea.

**SCENE 38. INT. SKIMMER.**

(FX: EXTENDED RADIO STATIC.)

**FLIP:**

(TIRED NOW) Anyone? Hello? Can anyone hear me?

(FX: MORE STATIC, THEN REPLACED BY AN OPEN CHANNEL.)

**ELGIN:** (RADIO FILTER)

Hello? Unidentified caller on this channel, can you hear me?

**FLIP:**

(SUDDENLY ALERT) Yes! Yes I hear you! Hello!

**ELGIN:** (RADIO FILTER)

Who are you and what are you doing in this system? Don't you know how dangerous this area is?

**FLIP:**

Tell me about it. Look, my name's Flip. I'm on a small ship, a skimmer, and there's no power.

**ELGIN:** (RADIO FILTER)

Keep calm, Flip. I'm tracking your radio transmission, I'll soon have you on my detectors.

**FLIP:**

You have a ship?

**ELGIN:**

Big enough to fit you in the cargo hold.

**FLIP:**

Don't be long. And hey, who are you?

**ELGIN:** (RADIO FILTER)

My name's Elgin. Elgin Vanser. And I'll be as quick as I can.

**FLIP:**

Quick as you like, Elgin.



**SCENE 39. INT. ERY'S — MAIN CHAMBER.**

(FX: AS BEFORE, THE TRICKLE OF VISCOUS FLUID IS CLOSE BY.)

**SARRA:**

What are you doing?

**DOCTOR:**

(EFFORT OF STRETCHING OUT) If I can reach over to this trickle of fresh secretion... (STRETCHES FURTHER)... nearly there...

(FX: THE DOCTOR GATHERS A HANDFUL OF THE GOO FROM THE SLOWLY TRICKLING SUPPLY.)

**DOCTOR:**

(CONTINUED) Eugh. Disgusting, but fresh. Just what we need.

**SARRA:**

Is it?

**DOCTOR:**

If I pour it over the hardened secretion on my trapped hand...

(FX: THE SECRETION GLOOPS AS THE DOCTOR POURS IT FROM HIS HAND ONTO THE HARDENED LUMP AROUND HIS OTHER HAND.)

**DOCTOR:**

(CONTINUED) And add some more... (STRETCHES)

(FX: THE DOCTOR GATHERS FURTHER SECRETION, WHICH THEN ALSO GLOOPS AS HE ADDS IT TO THE FIRST.)

**DOCTOR:**

Give it a little time to work... (EFFORT OF PULLING HIS TRAPPED HAND)... I think it might be working.

**SARRA:**

What's working?

**DOCTOR:**

The fresh secretion is warm. It's acting on the hardened lump around my hand, transferring its warmth and softening it. (PULLS ON HIS HAND) Yes, it's definitely becoming pliable. One determined... Pull!

(FX: THE DOCTOR'S HAND COMES FREE. THIS TIME WITH A SOFTER EFFECT, AND THE RELEASE OF SUCTION. HE'S PULLING HIS HAND FROM SOFT MATTER.)

**DOCTOR:**

Ah-ha! Success!

**SARRA:**

That's brilliant!

**DOCTOR:**

We must hurry. Ery's consciousness could return at any time.

(FX: THE DOCTOR GATHERS UP A DOUBLE HANDFUL OF THE SECRETION.)

**DOCTOR:**

(CONTINUED) I'll free my feet, then I'll get you out of there.

**SCENE 40. INT. ELGIN'S SHIP – CARGO HOLD.**

(FX: A LARGE METAL-FLOORED SPACE. THE AIR IS BEING PRESSURISED; AS THE RUSH OF OXYGEN STOPS, AN ELECTRONIC TONE DENOTES THAT THE PROCEDURE IS COMPLETE.

A DOOR HUMS OPEN, FOOTSTEPS ENTER.)

**ELGIN:**

(APPROACHING) The cargo hold is pressurised, Flip. You can get out now.

(FX: THE SKIMMER CANOPY OPENS UP. FLIP CLIMBS OUT, SPEAKING AS SHE DOES SO.)

**FLIP:**

Elgin. You're a star. I was sure I was a goner then.

**ELGIN:**

You're so young. What are you doing here?

**FLIP:**

Short version – Kidnapped by aliens, spoken to by a moon, swallowed by the ground, ran away, stole one of their skimmers.

**ELGIN:**

You were on Erys? Were you with Sarra?

**FLIP:**

Who's Sarra?

**ELGIN:**

She is my daughter.

**SCENE 41. INT. ERYs — TUNNEL**

(FX: THE DOCTOR AND SARRA ARE MOVING ALONG THE WET FLOOR, CAUTIOUSLY.)

**DOCTOR:**

Keep an ear out for Drachee.

**SARRA:**

Where are we going?

**DOCTOR:**

First we'll look around for my friend, Flip. Then we'll see. We may find a weak point in Ery's.

**SARRA:**

If it has one.

**DOCTOR:**

There are vulnerable points in every living being. You almost exploited one yourself.

**SARRA:**

I did?

**DOCTOR:**

You didn't throw that pendant bomb aimlessly. It was a relatively small charge, it needed to be targeted.

**SARRA:**

So?

**DOCTOR:**

You threw it towards an exposed nerve junction. If the explosion hadn't been contained it would have seriously disrupted Ery's nervous system. It would have gone into neural shutdown for a considerable period of time. Days, most likely.

**SARRA:**

It wouldn't have killed it?

**DOCTOR:**

Living planets aren't easy to kill. No matter how determined you are.

**SARRA:**

But why did I do it?

**DOCTOR:**

Perhaps you really are working for one of these corporations.  
But I somehow doubt it.

**SARRA:**

And who was that man who spoke to me?

**DOCTOR:**

He's another cause for hope. He knows you're here. Maybe he'll  
come to rescue you.

CRASH CUT TO:

**SCENE 42. INT. ELGIN'S SHIP — FLIGHT DECK.**

(FX: A ROOMY COCKPIT. VARIOUS INSTRUMENTS IN AUTOMATIC OPERATION. IN THE BACKGROUND, THE SPACECRAFT'S ENGINES ARE RUNNING.)

A DOOR HUMS OPEN. FLIP AND ELGIN ENTER.)

**ELGIN:**

(ENTERING) Out of the question.

**FLIP:**

But she's your daughter.

**ELGIN:**

Don't you think if there was any chance of me getting in there to rescue her I would? Erys would destroy this ship before I got near the planet.

**FLIP:**

But I've got to get back there! You said the Doctor's with her. I've got to help him.

**ELGIN:**

It's madness to even think about it. We should go, and try to persuade the authorities to return with us.

(FX: ELGIN IS INTERRUPTED BY A SUBTLE ALARM ON THE INSTRUMENT PANEL.)

**FLIP:**

What's that?

(FX: ELGIN WORKS SOME INSTRUMENTS, THE ALARM CUTS OFF. HE HITS FURTHER SWITCHES.)

**ELGIN:**

There's an object nearby. Meteorites usually. I don't think — oh hang on. That's odd.

**FLIP:**

What is it?

**ELGIN:**

The strangest thing. Floating across our path. Some kind of blue box.

**FLIP:**

(DELIGHTED) Elgin. We might not have to leave after all.

**SCENE 43. INT. ERY'S — NUTRIENT CHAMBER.**

(FX: A CHAMBER WITHIN ERY'S FULL OF BUBBLING POOLS OF LIQUID NUTRIENT. THE DRACHEE ARE FEEDING, CUPPING THE NUTRIENT TO THEIR MOUTHS AND DRINKING IT DOWN.)

**TERRILL:**

(WHILE DRINKING) This is your first nutrient feed. You will need to feed well, build up your energy.

**LONA:**

(DRINKING) I am aware, Terrill.

**TERRILL:**

I remember my first feed. That was a long time ago.

**LONA:**

How long?

**TERRILL:**

(PROUD) I have almost six years.

**LONA:**

That is old.

**TERRILL:**

You've fed enough. You'll be fine now. (TO THE ROOM) All of you, finish up. We're going back.

**LONA:**

You act like a leader.

**TERRILL:**

They listen to me.

**LONA:**

The parent doesn't like leaders among the brood.

**TERRILL:**

Maybe the parent is naive. Come on, let's go.

(FX: TERRILL, LONA AND THE DRACHEE LEAVE THE CHAMBER.

THE NUTRIENT CONTINUES TO BUBBLE.)

**DOCTOR:**

(APPROACHING) You can come out now. They've gone.



**SARRA:**

(APPROACHING) This is where they eat, then? From pools of... I'm not sure what to call it.

**DOCTOR:**

It's not the most appetising of delicacies, but this liquid provides them with all the nutrition they need. There's a fascinating biological cycle at work here. Oh hello.

**SARRA:**

What?

**DOCTOR:**

There are some other organic tubes here. They grow from out of the nutrient pools, and they go back into the floor.

**SARRA:**

Is that significant?

**DOCTOR:**

They're carrying nutrient, but they're taking it from the pools and feeding it elsewhere. Somewhere down below.

**SARRA:**

Nutrient for the Erys creature itself.

**DOCTOR:**

But Erys is already providing the nutrient that flows into these pools. Like milk for its young. There would be no need to feed off it itself.

**SARRA:**

What, then?

**DOCTOR:**

I don't know. It's curious.

**SARRA:**

Interesting, but do you think we should get out of here?

**DOCTOR:**

Perhaps you're right. Yes. For now. We'll head for the surface.

**SCENE 44. INT. ELGIN'S SHIP – CARGO HOLD.**

(FX: FLIP AND ELGIN CROSS THE METAL FLOOR OF THE HOLD AND STOP.)

**ELGIN:**

This is really your ship? This blue box can fly?

**FLIP:**

Yeah. (DISPIRITED) But I can't fly it. Only the Doctor can. He gave me a key, I can get in, but that's it.

**ELGIN:**

(THOUGHTFUL) There might be a way. If you were inside it, and secured yourself, I could eject it from the hold on a trajectory that would return it to Ery's.

**FLIP:**

Would that work?

**ELGIN:**

It would be a fine calculation, and you'd be taking your chances with the landing, but I don't see why not. If it was free falling and not powered I don't think Ery's would notice it.

**FLIP:**

I'm up for it.

**ELGIN:**

I'll want you to take a message to my daughter.

**FLIP:**

What message?

**ELGIN:**

Tell her that her father loves her. And that she has to leave now. Our plan has failed. We will return, but for now we have to go.

**FLIP:**

What plan?

**ELGIN:**

I can't tell you any more. If you knew, Ery's would know. And that would put everything and everyone in danger.

**SCENE 45. INT. ERY'S — MAIN CHAMBER.**

(FX: TERRILL, LONA AND THE DRACHEE ENTER.)

**TERRILL:**

Where are the outsiders?

**LONA:**

They've gone. How is this possible??

**TERRILL:**

Parent! Parent, speak to us! (PAUSE.) Parent!

**LONA:**

We must act on our own initiative.

**TERRILL:**

We must hunt them down.

SCENE 46. INT. TARDIS CONTROL ROOM.

(FX: AMBIENCE OF THE TARDIS AT REST.)

FLIP IS FASTENING A HARNESS TO THE CONSOLE (AS PER TIMELASH EPISODE ONE).)

**ELGIN:** (RADIO FILTER)

Flip, can you hear me? You're not too cramped inside there?

**FLIP:**

No it's, um, roomier than you'd think.

**ELGIN:** (RADIO FILTER)

I've come closer to Ery's than I'm comfortable with, I'd like to get away. Are you ready?

**FLIP:**

Just attaching a safety harness to the console. The Doctor showed me how to do this. Fiddly as a deck chair, but...

(FX: THE FINAL HARNESS CLIPS ARE SECURED.)

**FLIP:**

(CONTINUED)... Done. (DEEP REASSURING BREATH) I'm ready.

**ELGIN:** (RADIO FILTER)

The computer prediction says this will take you on a course to impact close to the point on Ery's where I last heard from Sarra.

**FLIP:**

(WORRIED) Impact?

**ELGIN:** (RADIO FILTER)

Em. Land.

**FLIP:**

That's better. (BRACES HERSELF) Okay. Go.

**ELGIN:** (RADIO FILTER)

See you soon, Flip. Initiating explosive decompression, cargo doors opening... now.

(FX: OVER THE RADIO LINK WE HEAR THE OUTFLOW OF AIR CAUSED BY THE IMMEDIATE DECOMPRESSION OF THE CARGO HOLD.)

**FLIP:**

(SCREAMS LIKE IT'S THE START OF THE WORLD'S MOST THRILLING  
THEME PARK RIDE) Here I come, Doctor!!

**SCENE 47. INT. ELGIN'S SHIP – FLIGHT DECK**

(FX: OVER ELGIN'S RADIO LINK, A WHOOSH OF MOVEMENT AMONGST THE DECOMPRESSION AS THE TARDIS IS SUCKED OUT INTO SPACE.)

ELGIN ACTIVATES CONTROLS TO REPRESSURISE THE HOLD AND MANOEUVRE THE SHIP.)

**ELGIN:** (TO THE ROOM)  
Now to get away from here.

**ERYS:** (MENTAL PROJECTION)  
I have found you.

**ELGIN:**  
(SUDDENLY AFRAID) Erys?!

**ERYS:** (MENTAL PROJECTION)  
You are in league with the woman who attacked me.

(FX: ELGIN RAPIDLY THROWS SWITCHES. THE SHIP'S ENGINES SURGE, PEAK AND STALL.)

**ELGIN:**  
The engines won't start!

**ERYS:** (MENTAL PROJECTION)  
You are too late to run.

(FX: THE HULL CREAKS AND BUCKLES AS ERY'S DEMONSTRATES ITS POWER.)

**ELGIN:**  
Let my vessel go!

**ERYS:** (MENTAL PROJECTION)  
(CONTINUED) What are you and the woman doing here?

**ELGIN:**  
(MENTAL STRUGGLE) No... I will not...

**ERYS:** (MENTAL PROJECTION)  
Foolish man. You cannot hide your thoughts... aah, I see now. So that is your purpose? How surprising.

**ELGIN:**  
We had no choice.

**ERY'S:** (MENTAL PROJECTION)

No choice but to kill me?

**ELGIN:**

What have you done with my - ?

**ERY'S:** (MENTAL PROJECTION)

I have learned enough.

(FX: FURTHER PRESSURE ON THE HULL, WHICH BUCKLES FURTHER. THERE ARE ELECTRICAL EXPLOSIONS.)

**ELGIN:**

My ship! You're destroying my ship!!!

**SCENE 48. INT. ERY'S — CAVE MOUTH.**

(FX: THE DOCTOR AND SARRA EMERGE FROM THE CAVE MOUTH ONTO THE DRY DIRT GROUND OUTSIDE. THE WAILING WIND IS BLOWING.)

**SARRA:**

(TAKES A DEEP BREATH) Ah, fresh air!

**DOCTOR:**

We're not safe yet.

**SARRA:**

What's that? Can you hear that?

(FX: DISTANT BUT COMING NEAR, FROM INSIDE THE CAVE SYSTEM THE CRY OF DRACHEE ON THE CHARGE.)

**DOCTOR:**

Drachee. Coming this way. We need to get out of here.

(THE DOCTOR AND SARRA START RUNNING.)

**DOCTOR:**

(CONTINUED) (RUNNING) We might stand a chance if we can get to those hills and out of sight!



**SCENE 49. INT. TARDIS CONTROL ROOM.**

(FX: THE TARDIS TUMBLING AS IT HURTLES THROUGH SPACE.)

**FLIP:**

(WHOOPS OF ALTERNATING JOY AND FRIGHT AS SHE STRUGGLES TO KEEP HER BALANCE.) Nearly there! Nearly there!! Come on TARDIS!!

**SCENE 50. EXT. ERY'S — SURFACE.**

(FX: THE DOCTOR AND SARRA RUNNING.)

**DRACHEE:**

(DISTANT, THEY GIVE AN EXCITED CRY)

**SARRA:**

(RUNNING) The Drachee. They've seen us!

**DOCTOR:**

(RUNNING) Keep going!

**SARRA:**

(RUNNING) I don't know if I can keep up... (SHE SLOWS) Wait. What's that in the sky? Is that your — ?

**DOCTOR:**

- My TARDIS! Yes!

(FX: THE TARDIS, CUTTING THROUGH THE AIR, FALLING RAPIDLY.)

**DOCTOR:**

(CONTINUED) It's not flying. It's falling!

(FX: THE TARDIS HITS A HILLSIDE IN THE MIDDLE DISTANCE AND TUMBLES DOWN. THE SOUND OF IT TUMBLING CONTINUES BEHIND THE FOLLOWING.)

**SARRA:**

Not much of a landing. It fairly crashed into that hillside.

**DOCTOR:**

It'll come to a halt at the foot of the hill. Come on!

(FX: THEY RUN OFF AGAIN.)

**DRACHEE:**

(ATTACK CRY, NOW CLOSER — MIDDLE DISTANCE)

**SCENE 51. EXT. ERY'S — HILLSIDE.**

(FX: THE TUMBLING TARDIS SLEWS TO A HALT.

THE DOCTOR AND SARRA RUN UP TO IT.)

**DOCTOR:**

(APPROACHING AT A RUN) Come on, Sarra! We have to get inside!

(FX: THE TARDIS DOOR OPENS.)

**FLIP:**

(EFFORT OF PULLING HERSELF UP.) Anyone want a lift?

**DOCTOR:**

Flip!!? Wonderful to see you!

**DRACHEE:**

(ATTACK CRY, IN THE NEAR DISTANCE)

**FLIP:**

Want to climb in?

(FX: THE DOCTOR AND SARRA CLIMB IN.)

**DOCTOR AND SARRA:**

Hurry up! Those Drachee will be on us at any moment. (EFFORT OF CLIMBING INTO THE TARDIS)

(FX: THE TARDIS DOOR SLAMS SHUT. THE DRACHEE CHARGE UP.)

**DRACHEE:**

(ATTACK CRY, NOW CLOSE TO.)

(FX: TARDIS DEMATERIALISES.)

**TERRILL:**

(CRY OF FRUSTRATION) (RECOVERING FROM RUNNING) I wanted that ship!!

**LONA:**

(RECOVERING FROM RUNNING) You wanted it?

**TERRILL:**

Maybe they didn't go far.

(FX: TERRILL STARTS WALKING AWAY.)

**LONA:**

Where are you going?

**TERRILL:**

You'll see.

**SCENE 52. INT. TARDIS CONTROL ROOM**

(FX: AMBIENCE OF THE TARDIS IN FLIGHT.)

**FLIP:**

That was close.

**SARRA:**

You look in pretty good shape for someone who just crashed into a hillside.

**DOCTOR:**

The advantages of a dimensional interface. The interior of the TARDIS counteracts the worst of the effects on the exterior. But you weren't to know that, Flip. I've told you before, young lady: think before you act!

**FLIP:**

It was pretty good fun. Until the landing.

**DOCTOR:**

You call that a landing?? ... But how did you get here? And in the TARDIS?

**FLIP:**

I made a new friend. Sarra, I have a message for you.

**SARRA:**

A message?

**FLIP:**

From your dad.

**SARRA:**

(CATCHES HER BREATH)

**FLIP:**

He said... well, that you loved you.

**SARRA:**

My father?

**FLIP:**

Yeah... And he said you have to leave here. He said the plan has failed.

**SARRA:**

What plan? I don't know anything about a plan.

**FLIP:**

He said he couldn't tell me, because if I knew then Erys would know if it read my mind.

**SARRA:**

My father...

**DOCTOR:**

He must have been the person communicating with you.

**SARRA:**

Where is he?

**FLIP:**

Close. He has a ship. But he's had to keep his distance from Erys.

**DOCTOR:**

I'm sure we can answer all this in time. But now we're leaving. After one short stopover.

(FX: THE DOCTOR ACTIVATES INSTRUMENTS ON THE CONSOLE.)

**FLIP:**

A stopover? Where?

**DOCTOR:**

Asphya. It's too dangerous here for Renva and his people. I need to persuade them to evacuate in the TARDIS.

(MUSIC – PASSAGE OF TIME)

**SCENE 53. EXT. ASPHYA – VILLAGE STREET.**

(FX: PEOPLE ARE MOVING ABOUT THE VILLAGE AS BEFORE.

THE TARDIS MATERIALISES.)

**VILLAGERS:**

(SHOCKED REACTION)

**REIVAL:**

(APPROACHING FROM MIDDLE DISTANCE) Everyone, please! Calm down! There is no need to be afraid!

(FX: THE TARDIS DOOR OPENS.)

**DOCTOR:**

(EMERGING) Renval. Just the man we needed to see.

**REIVAL:**

Doctor! Is this the friend you went to Ery's for?

**FLIP:**

(EMERGING) Nice to meet you. I'm Flip.

**SARRA:**

(EMERGING) Good to see you again, Renval.

**DOCTOR:**

There's not much time. Ery's is a dangerously unstable creature. I implore you, let me take you and your people away from here in my TARDIS.

**REIVAL:**

In... this?

**DOCTOR:**

It will surprise you.

**REIVAL:**

This is our home, Doctor.

**DOCTOR:**

And you live here under the shadow of a constant threat.

**REIVAL:**

It is all we know.

**DOCTOR:**

Let me address the village. Let me put my case to your people, and then they can decide.

**REIVAL:**

Even if they said yes, how many could you possibly take in this... box?

**DOCTOR:**

Let me show you. Would you like to come in?

**REIVAL:**

If it's safe...

**DOCTOR:**

Of course. (ENTERING THE TARDIS) Follow me.



**SCENE 54. INT. TARDIS CONTROL ROOM.**

(FX: AMBIENCE OF THE TARDIS AT REST.

THE DOCTOR AND RENTAL ENTER.)

**DOCTOR:**

Here we are, Rental. Allow me to present to you...

**RENTAL:**

(GROANS AS HE LAPSES INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS AND FALLS)

(FX: RENTAL HITS THE FLOOR HEAVILY.)

**DOCTOR:**

Rental!

**FLIP:**

(ENTERING) What happened?

**DOCTOR:**

He collapsed.

**FLIP:**

What was it? Shock at seeing the TARDIS?

**DOCTOR:**

No, it's something else. Help me carry him out.

(FX: THE DOCTOR AND FLIP LIFT RENTAL BETWEEN THEM AND DRAG HIM TOWARDS THE DOOR.)

**SCENE 55. EXT. ASPHYA – VILLAGE STREET**

(FX: THE DOCTOR AND FLIP DRAG RENTAL OUT FROM THE TARDIS.)

**DOCTOR:**

(EFFORT OF CARRYING) Steady now, steady...

**VILLAGERS:**

(CONCERNED MUTTERINGS)

**DOCTOR:**

It's all right, I'm sure he'll be fine. In fact, yes.

**RENTAL:**

(MOANS, MAKING A RAPID RECOVERY) What happened?

**DOCTOR:**

You passed out.

**RENTAL:**

Passed out?

**DOCTOR:**

As soon as you entered the TARDIS.

**RENTAL:**

Why?

**DOCTOR:**

I'm sorry, Rental. I don't think you can ever leave Asphy.

**RENTAL:**

What do you mean?

**VILLAGERS:**

(SCREAMS) Drachee! Drachee!

**SARRA:**

The Drachee are coming, Doctor. A group of them. In their skimmers.

(FX: IN THE SKY, THE DRONE OF A SWARM OF DRACHEE, SWOOPING TOWARDS US.)

**FLIP:**

We've got to get everyone into the TARDIS!

**DOCTOR:**

No, Flip. That won't work. They'd all have the same reaction as Renval.

**FLIP:**

Eh?

(FX: THE SKIMMERS SWOOP DANGEROUSLY CLOSE OVERHEAD. VILLAGERS CRY OUT IN REACTION. FURTHER SKIMMERS SWOOP PAST.)

**FLIP:**

(PAINED) Ah! My head! (CONTINUES IN PAIN BEHIND THE FOLLOWING.)

**DOCTOR:**

(FIGHTING THE DRACHEE INFLUENCE) The Drachee are playing with your mind, Flip! You can fight it!

**SARRA:**

Doctor, it's not just Flip. It's everyone. The entire village is on its knees.

**VILLAGERS:**

(EN MASSE, IN MENTAL TORMENT)

**REIVAL:**

Doctor! Doctor ... They are placing demons in our minds... ! (CRIES IN PAIN)

(FX: NEARBY, SEVERAL SKIMMERS LAND, THEIR CANOPIES OPEN. BEHIND:)

**DOCTOR:**

This is monstrous.

**REIVAL:**

(IN PAIN) Help us!

**DOCTOR:**

I don't know if I can.

**TERRILL:**

(APPROACHING) Stay away from your TARDIS, Doctor!

**DOCTOR:**

Terrill. You have to stop this.

**TERRILL:**

It will continue. Until and unless you surrender your TARDIS to us.

**LONA:**

(APPROACHING) I'm sure you know that Terrill means what he says, Doctor.

**DOCTOR:**

You know me, but we've not been introduced.

**LONA:**

Have we not?

**TERRILL:**

Doctor... ?

**FLIP AND VILLAGERS:**

(CONTINUED IN PAIN)

**DOCTOR:**

Very well. Yes. The TARDIS is yours. Stop this!

**TERRILL:**

But of course.

**FLIP AND THE VILLAGERS:**

(RELEASED SUDDENLY FROM THEIR TORMENT. MOAN AS THEY RECOVER.)

**TERRILL:**

That wasn't so difficult, was it? Shall we enter my TARDIS?

**SCENE 56. INT. TARDIS CONTROL ROOM.**

(FX: AMBIENCE OF THE TARDIS AT REST.)

THE DOCTOR, TERRILL, LONA AND THE DRACHEE ENTER. THE DRACHEE SWARM AS EAGERLY AS BEFORE, CHATTERING IN THEIR EXCITED WAY, ONCE MORE LIKE CURIOUS CHILDREN.)

**TERRILL:**

You will take us wherever we wish to go, Doctor. We will keep you on a tight leash. No tricks from you, understand?

**DOCTOR:**

Very clear.

**TERRILL:**

Where shall we go first?

**LONA:**

You did not discuss this, Terrill.

**TERRILL:**

Of course I didn't discuss it with a newborn. Your role is to do what we tell you to do, new one.

**LONA:**

(A BOOMING, ANGRY VOICE) NO!!!! (EFFORT OF STRIKING OUT)

**TERRILL:**

(HIT, HE CRIES OUT AND GOES DOWN, WHIMPERING) What... ?

**LONA:**

You foolish thing. And the rest of you. All fools. I am not one of you. I am Erys. This Drachee was formed not just from the flesh but with the mind of Erys imbued in it. So that I could walk with you, determine your intentions, confirm whether my suspicions were correct. And they are.

**ERYS:**

(SPEAKING THROUGH LONA) You. Are. UNGRATEFUL! And you would DESERT ME!

**TERRILL:**

(ABJECT) Parent. No! We would not do that.

**LONA:**

(HER OWN VOICE AGAIN – MORE CONTAINED) Outside. All of you. Now. You too, Doctor.

**DOCTOR:**

As you say...

**SCENE 57. EXT. ASPHYA – VILLAGE STREET.**

(FX: THERE IS NOW A WIND BLOWING. NOT TOO STRONG, BUT NEARBY TREES ARE RUSTLING. IT IS A HARBINGER OF MORE TO COME FROM ASPHYA'S NATURE.)

THE OCCUPANTS OF THE TARDIS EMERGE.)

**FLIP:**

(RAISED VOICE ABOVE THE WIND) Doctor, what's happening?

**DOCTOR:**

Lona is Erys.

**FLIP:**

Erys? How's that possible?

**DOCTOR:**

Trust me. It's possible.

(FX: THE DOCTOR CLOSES THE TARDIS DOOR.)

**LONA:**

This moment marks a new beginning. For everyone here. I have been too indulgent. Too forgiving.

**REIVAL:**

Please, we have nothing to do with this.

**LONA:**

Silence! You have served your purpose, but it is over.

**REIVAL:**

Purpose... ?

**DOCTOR:**

Erys. Please. Don't.

**LONA:**

You guess the truth, Doctor?

**DOCTOR:**

Renval collapsed when he entered the TARDIS. I presume because there was a signal that was sustaining him. A signal that was broken by the TARDIS environment.

**LONA:**

Correct.

**DOCTOR:**

One that emanates from off this world. From the moon. From you. The Asphyans have life because you give it to them.

**REIVAL:**

This makes no sense to me.

**DOCTOR:**

What I don't understand is why.

**LONA:**

This is a small system, with no other life forms to interact with. My Drachee needed a distraction.

**DOCTOR:**

A distraction?! You did this to provide a distraction??

**LONA:**

They needed amusement, and others to interact with. And so I gave them the people of Asphy. I made these people.

**FLIP:**

Made them?

**REIVAL:**

She speaks madness.

**DOCTOR:**

I'm sorry, Renval. You and your people are avatars.

**REIVAL:**

Avatars?

**DOCTOR:**

Shells, your bodies sustained by life energy from Erys.

**LONA:**

They are the creation of the stuff of these worlds, held together by my will.

**REIVAL:**

I refuse to believe this.

**LONA:**

And can be dissolved by my will.

(FX: LONA/ERYs RADIATES A MENTAL FORCE.)



**DOCTOR:**

Erys – No!

**REIVAL:**

(CRIES OUT IN PAIN AS HE DISINTEGRATES TO NOTHING) No please!  
What is this? Noooo... ! Doctor?...

(FX: ACCOMPANYING REIVAL'S CRIES, THE DISINTEGRATION OF HIS  
BODY. RAPID DEGENERATION, UNTIL HE COLLAPSES AND FULLY DECAYS  
ONTO THE GROUND.)

**LONA:**

How easily he is returned to the stuff of the soil. Now for his  
friends.

(FX: AGAIN LONA/ERY'S RADIATES HER WILL.)

**VILLAGERS:**

(CRY OUT AS THEY TOO DECAY AWAY TO NOTHING.)

(FX: THE VILLAGERS DISINTEGRATE AS THE WIND BECOMES STRONGER.)

**TERRILL:**

You take them all away from us... ?

**DOCTOR:**

There was absolutely no need for that. The entire village?

**LONA:**

There was every need! All of this is taken! Now look to the  
moon. Look at Erys!

**FLIP:**

Doctor, the moon. It's... rippling.

(FX: A DISTANT MUFFLED BOOM, AS A HUGE FORCE IS GENERATED FROM  
ERY'S.)

**DOCTOR:**

Erys has generated a pressure wave! Everyone – get down!!

**LONA:**

(LAUGHS, CONTINUING BEHIND THE FOLLOWING)

(FX: THE PRESSURE WAVE FROM ERY'S HITS THE PLANET AS AN INSTANT  
GALE FORCE HURRICANE, BOOM! TEARING UP HOMES AND SOIL AND TREES  
AND ROCKS. BOOM! HOMES ARE SWEEPED AWAY. THE STORM CONTINUES  
BEHIND THE FOLLOWING.)

**FLIP:**

(SCREAMING ABOVE THE STORM) Doctor!!

**DOCTOR:**

Hang on, Flip! Keep hold, Sarra!!

**SARRA:**

I'll try!!

**LONA:**

(CALM, YET HER VOICE STILL CARRIES, AIDED BY MENTAL PROJECTION)  
I take these avatars. I destroy their dwellings. I ravage this land. And now... (LAUGHS)

**DOCTOR:**

(SHOUTING TO BE HEARD) And now, what?

**LONA:**

And now, to impose my will, I create new beings. Creatures. From the mud and clay of the ground. Who know only one thing. To do as I command.

**FLIP:**

Doctor – look!

(FX: CLOSE BY, THE GROUND SPLITS. THEN A LARGE FIGURE CLAWS AND SCRABBLES OUT OF THE FRACTURED GROUND.)

**MUD BEAST:**

(FORMING AND CLIMBING FROM THE DIRT GROUND, THE CREATURE MAKES AN ANIMAL, GUTTURAL SOUND. ROARING, SNARLING.)

**SARRA:**

More of them.

(FX: FURTHER ERUPTIONS FROM THE SOIL AS THE MUD BEASTS ARE CREATED.)

**MUD BEASTS:**

(SEVERAL OF THE BEASTS THEN SNARL AND ROAR AS THEY EMERGE.)

**FLIP:**

Are they... people?

**DOCTOR:**

Mud people. Made from the soil, animated by Ery's mental powers.

**LONA:**

My new children!

(FX: THE TEMPEST REACHES A NEW PEAK, SWIRLING FORCEFULLY AROUND US, MIXING WITH THE THUNDERING ROARS OF THE NEWBORN MUD BEASTS.)

**CRASH IN CLOSING THEME.**

**PART FOUR**

MUSIC: OPENING TITLES

REPRISE

(FX: FURTHER ERUPTIONS FROM THE SOIL AS THE MUD BEASTS ARE CREATED.)

**MUD BEASTS:**

(SEVERAL OF THE BEASTS THEN SNARL AND ROAR AS THEY EMERGE.)

**FLIP:**

Are they... people?

**DOCTOR:**

Mud people. Made from the soil, animated by Erys's mental powers.

**LONA:**

My new children!

CONTINUES INTO:

**SCENE 58. EXT. ASPHYA – VILLAGE STREET [CONTINUOUS].**

(FX: THE TEMPEST REACHES A NEW PEAK, SWIRLING FORCEFULLY AROUND US, MIXING WITH THE THUNDERING ROARS OF THE NEWBORN MUD BEASTS.

THE FOLLOWING DIALOGUE IS PITCHED UP ABOVE THE STORM IN THE BACKGROUND.)

**DOCTOR:**

Erys, this is not necessary!

**LONA:**

This is very necessary. And let me demonstrate what will happen if anyone chooses to challenge me from this moment on. Drachee, you, come forward.

**FEMALE DRACHEE:**

Me?

**LONA:**

I won't ask again.

**FEMALE DRACHEE:**

What will happen?

**LONA:**

Where you stand then. Creature?

**MUD BEAST:**

(SNARLS OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT)

**LONA:**

Absorb her.

**MUD BEAST:**

(SNARLS HUNGRILY)

**FEMALE DRACHEE:**

No! No, stay away!

**FLIP:**

Doctor, stop this!

**DOCTOR:**

If I could, I would.

**MUD BEAST:**

(ITS SNARLS REACH A CRESCENDO, CLOSE ON MIC, AS IT BEARS DOWN ON THE HAPLESS DRACHEE)

**FEMALE DRACHEE:**

(NEAR TEARS) No please! Why me?? Why ME??? (STARTS TO SCREAM, BUT THE SCREAM BECOMES MUFFLED AND EVENTUALLY STOPS, BEHIND THE FOLLOWING.)

(FX: WET, SLURPING SUCTION AS THE MUD CREATURE WALKS INTO THE DRACHEE AND ENTIRELY ENVELOPS HER.)

**MUD BEAST:**

(A FINAL SATISFIED FLOURISH OF A SNARL)

**FLIP:**

What's happened to her, Doctor?

**DOCTOR:**

Absorbed into the mud creature's body.

**SARRA:**

Horrible.

**LONA:**

(TO THE ENTIRE ASSEMBLY) A lesson in obedience for all of you. Including you outsiders.

(FX: LONA WALKS TOWARDS US AND STOPS.)

**LONA:**

(CONTINUED) Now, Doctor, we will return to my chamber. In your craft. You will not try anything foolish or you and your friends will feel the embrace of my mud creatures.

**DOCTOR:**

I'm hardly ever foolish.

**LONA:**

Good.

(FX: THE DOCTOR OPENS THE TARDIS DOOR.)

**SCENE 59. INT. TARDIS CONTROL ROOM.**

(FX: AMBIENCE OF THE TARDIS AT REST.)

THE DOCTOR, FLIP, SARRA, LONA, TERRILL, A GROUP OF DRACHEE AND MUD CREATURES ENTER. THE MUD CREATURES DRAG THEIR FEET WETLY ON THE FLOOR.)

**LONA:**

Mud creatures, stand by the Doctor. If I give the order, he is to be absorbed.

(FX: TWO MUD CREATURES MOVE TO TAKE POSITION BY THE DOCTOR, THEIR FEET AGAIN DRAGGING ON THE FLOOR.)

**DOCTOR:**

They could have wiped their feet at the door.

**FLIP:**

Yeah, who's gonna do the mopping-up?

**LONA:**

Enough. Take us to my person.

**DOCTOR:**

Very well.

(FX: THE DOCTOR ACTIVATES SOME CONSOLE INSTRUMENTS. THE DOORS CLOSE, AND THE TARDIS ENGINES START UP. )

**LONA:**

How long to get there?

**DOCTOR:**

Almost no time at all.

**LONA:**

Truly?

**TERRILL:**

Parent. What are these... things?

**LONA:**

The mud creatures and you Drachee are both created by me. But while you come from my flesh and have free will, they are made from the soil and act only as I command them to.

**TERRILL:**

What did they do to Fem? Is she dead?

**LONA:**

The creature absorbed not just her body but her psyche. She is preserved, and will be returned to the flesh.

**FLIP:**

Is that what would happen to us?

**DOCTOR:**

I don't know. But I'm not in a hurry to find out. The process might well suffocate us.

**SARRA:**

Not the way I'd choose to go.

**LONA:**

Then you had best do exactly as you are told.

(FX: THE TARDIS ENGINES BEGIN THE DEMATERIALISATION SEQUENCE.)

**DOCTOR:**

We're landing.

**LONA:**

This is an impressive craft indeed, Doctor.

**DOCTOR:**

Thank you.

**FLIP:**

Doctor. How come Renval passed out when he came in here, but none of this lot have?

**DOCTOR:**

Because the Drachee and the mud creatures have independent existence. The Asphyans were sustained by signals from the Erys moon. Coming into the transdimensional environment of the TARDIS broke the connection.

**SARRA:**

What sort of signals?

**DOCTOR:**

That's the unpleasant part. Avatars like the Asphyans are husks, sustained by the projections of other living beings.



**SARRA:**

Projections?

**DOCTOR:**

A person, a being, is in one place and their life force is captured and channelled into one of these husks in another.

**FLIP:**

So, somewhere on Ery's there are people that were used to keep the Asphyans alive?

**DOCTOR:**

People. Or their captured life essence.

**SARRA:**

(A SUDDEN RECOLLECTION) People...

**LONA:**

This is what it means to be integrated.

**FLIP:**

Eh? (ANGER RISING) You were going to 'integrate' me. Was that going to be me? Locked up somewhere acting like a... battery or something?

**LONA:**

That's a good enough description.

**FLIP:**

(FURIOUS) I should knock your – [head off]

(FX: MUD BEASTS APPROACH RAPIDLY.)

**MUD BEASTS:**

(THREATENING GROWLS)

**DOCTOR:**

Flip.

**FLIP:**

(RELENTS, CALMS DOWN) Okay, okay. I'm not going to do nothing.

(FX: THE MUD BEASTS RELAX TOO, AND BACK OFF.)

**LONA:**

A wise decision.

**FLIP:**

Not yet anyway.

(FX: THE TARDIS ENGINES FINISH THEIR MATERIALISATION SEQUENCE.  
THE TARDIS DOORS OPEN BEHIND THE FOLLOWING.)

**DOCTOR:**

We have arrived.

**SARRA:**

(STRUGGLING WITH A MEMORY) People...

**LONA:**

Outside. Everyone.

**SCENE 60. INT. ERYs – MAIN CHAMBER.**

(FX: CHAMBER AMBIENCE. THE TARDIS DOOR OPENS AND THE OCCUPANTS EMERGE. THE MUD BEASTS GROWL AS THEY SHEPHERD THE COWED DRACHEE.)

**DOCTOR:**

(EMERGING) Home Sweet Home, eh, Erys?

**LONA:**

(EMERGING) Do you never stop with the platitudes, Doctor?

**DOCTOR:**

Then I'll be serious. What do you plan to do with us?

**ERYs:**

There is the matter of the attempt on my life.

**DOCTOR:**

Ah, Erys. The real you. I see Lona appears to have taken a nap. So it's one of you or the other, is it?

**ERYs:**

I can displace my conscious being. But even I cannot be in two places at once.

**DOCTOR:**

Oh, quite. But as to your point about the attack on your life, I have to tell you that wouldn't have been fatal.

**FLIP:**

Doctor? Sarra doesn't look well.

**DOCTOR:**

Sarra?

**SARRA:**

(PAINED) My head. I feel... there are memories, on the tip of recollection... I can't get to them.

**ERYs:**

I think I might have the answer you want. Watch the far wall.

(FX: THE WALL STARTS TO SLITHER AND STRETCH. SUCTION AS A FIGURE IS FORCED THROUGH A FISSURE AND IS EXPELLED ONTO THE GROUND.)

**ELGIN:**

(GRUNTS AS HE HITS THE FLOOR.)

**ERY'S:**

A newly acquired prisoner.

**DOCTOR:**

Flip? Do you know this poor man?

**FLIP:**

Yes, it's - [her father]

**SARRA:**

I know him.

**DOCTOR:**

You do?

**SARRA:**

I... I think I do.

**ELGIN:**

(WEAK, BUT HAPPY AT HER RECOLLECTION) Hello Sarra.

**SARRA:**

You're... Wait. Flip said she met my -... Yes. I remember. I remember of course I do! Father!

(FX: SARRA RUNS TO ELGIN AND EMBRACES HIM, HELPING HIM UP.)

**ELGIN:**

(WINCES, BUT CAN'T DISGUISE HIS HAPPINESS) Easy, girl. Got a few bruised ribs from what that thing did to my ship.

**SARRA:**

Oh father. It's good to see you! But what is this all about?

**ELGIN:**

Here. This should make everything clear again.

(FX: ELGIN TAKES AN OBJECT FROM HIS POCKET. IT POWERS UP, A SUBTLE TONE.)

**SARRA:**

(ALARMED) What is that?

**ELGIN:**

It won't hurt you. If I just place it against your forehead...

(FX: A TONE, THE SAME HYPNOTIC TONE THAT WE HEARD IN SCENE 1.)

**ERYs:**

What are you doing?

**ELGIN:**

Restoring my daughter's life to her. Don't worry, I know what I'm doing. I'm an encephalic surgeon.

**SARRA:**

(GASPS, REACTING TO THE SUDDEN INPUT OF MEMORIES)

**ELGIN:**

Your memories will return to you now. Give it a few minutes and you should remember everything.

**DOCTOR:**

(CAUTIONARY) Whatever you remember, Erys will become aware of it.

**ELGIN:**

Erys already knows. It read my mind, on the ship.

**ERYs:**

Yes. I know exactly why you came here, Sarra Vanser, and who you are.

**SARRA:**

Vanser. Yes, that's right... I'm Sarra Vanser.

**DOCTOR:**

Do you remember what you came here for?

**SARRA:**

I... (REMEMBERING) Oh no. NO! (CRIES)

(FX: SARRA TAKES THE PHOTOGRAPH FROM HER POCKET.)

**FLIP:**

What's the photograph?

**DOCTOR:**

Her children.

**SARRA:**

(CRYING) My lovely girls... Jen, Mya... They're... they're here. On Erys.

**DOCTOR:**

Elgin. What happened?

**ELGIN:**

It may be illegal to visit this system, but a living planet is quite a tourist attraction. There are illicit 'tours' run by unscrupulous entrepreneurs. Sarra's husband Levek arranged to bring the girls on one of these tours, months ago.

**SARRA:**

(MEMORIES FLOODING BACK) It was a birthday treat for Jen. Yes.

**ELGIN:**

The tour ship never returned. There was a distress call saying they were crashing on Ery's, then nothing.

**SARRA:**

I... yes, I remember it all. I went to the authorities to demand they send a rescue mission.

**ELGIN:**

Do you remember coming to see me after?

**SARRA:**

I ... Yes! Yes, I came to your apartment.

(GRAMS: MUSIC, SEGUEING TO FLASHBACK.)

**SCENE 61. INT. ELGIN'S APARTMENT ON LAMINUS (FLASHBACK).**

(FX: INTERIOR ACOUSTIC. A POWERED DOOR SLIDES OPEN, SARRA ENTERS.)

**SARRA:**  
Father!

**ELGIN:**  
Sarrah, what happened? What did they say?

**SARRA:**  
They refuse to send a rescue party.

**ELGIN:**  
What? There are children's lives at stake here! They've seen the footage from the robot drone we sent, haven't they? They know we found the ship, with no bodies in it? That means Levek and the girls left the ship – they survived!

**SARRA:**  
I showed them. But they're afraid of that damned world. They say they haven't got a ship that could survive an attack by the creature. And even if they did, they won't expose their people to Erys or the Drachees' mind control.

**ELGIN:**  
So. We have to find our own way of doing this.

**SARRA:**  
I've been thinking about it on the way here. The living moon has to be killed or incapacitated. That's the only way to find Levek and the girls and get them away.

**ELGIN:**  
How do you kill a planet?

**SARRA:**  
The difficult part is getting close without the creature knowing what I intend to do.

**ELGIN:**  
What you intend to do??

**SARRA:**  
I'm going to Erys. I'm going to get them back. It's possible, if you give me a controlled memory wipe.

**ELGIN:**

Oh now, Sarra...

**SARRA:**

Father, you're the best encephalic surgeon on Laminus. You could wipe my memories, and implant subconscious drivers so I would still do what I need to do. Erys and its Drachee will have no idea what I'm planning.

**ELGIN:**

I should be the one to go.

**SARRA:**

You're the surgeon. You can hardly perform this procedure on yourself. I'll go, and you can monitor me from a distance.

**ELGIN:**

It's far too dangerous.

**SARRA:**

It's dangerous for my children, your grandchildren. That's why we have to try.

(BEAT.)

**ELGIN:**

I suppose we could use the robot drone to get the lay of the land before you travel. That might help the odds of success.

**SARRA:**

You'll do it?

**ELGIN:**

I'll start making preparations right away.

**SARRA:**

Oh father. Thank you.

**ELGIN:**

First question is, how will you get there?

**SARRA:**

I'll take Levek's yacht. After I arrive, while Erys attacks, I'll get into a lifepod and make my way to the surface. Then once I've dealt with Erys, you can come and join me and together we'll find them.

(GRAMS: MUSIC BOOKENDS THE FLASHBACK AS WE RETURN TO THE PRESENT.)



**SCENE 62. INT. ERY'S — MAIN CHAMBER.**

(FX: RESUME THE DANK ECHOING ACOUSTIC OF ERY'S CHAMBER.)

**DOCTOR:**

But you arrived straight into an attack by Ery's that was already under way against my TARDIS. You had no time to get into a lifepod.

**SARRA:**

That almost ruined everything.

**DOCTOR:**

Then the phototablet of the children almost broke through your memory block.

**SARRA:**

I just wanted them near me. Their images. I stitched the phototablet into my trousers, not intending to find it. Just to have my girls with me.

**ELGIN:**

Children — there's no memory blocker strong enough to block those feelings out.

**SARRA:**

Ery's. Where are my children? Where are my daughters and my husband?

**ERY'S:**

In time.

**SARRA:**

What have you done with them? Have they been 'integrated'?? I demand you tell me!!

**ERY'S:**

You will be silent. Challenge me again and you will be absorbed.

(FX: THE MUD BEASTS DRAG THEMSELVES CLOSER TO SARRA.)

**DOCTOR:**

Do as it says, Sarra.

**ERY'S:**

Now, you will all be contained. Humanoids and Drachee alike.

**TERRILL:**

This is not fair!

**ERYS:**

You have betrayed me! You plotted to abandon me! You were going to go to the worlds outside who mean me nothing but harm.

**TERRILL:**

We are curious. We want more than this existence.

**ERYS:**

Your place is here with me. You will be detained until you accept that.

**TERRILL:**

I say – No.

**ERYS:**

Careful, Terrill. Or you will be absorbed as Fem was.

**TERRILL:**

I don't think so.

(FX: A MENTAL FORCE BUILDS UP, EMANATING FROM TERRILL. CONTINUES BEHIND THE FOLLOWING.)

**ERYS:**

What are you doing?

**TERRILL:** (MENTAL PROJECTION)

Drachee brothers and sisters, join with me. Together we are strong.

**ERYS:**

What is this?

(FX: THE MENTAL FORCE ESCALATES.)

**DOCTOR:**

Terrill, take care. You're playing with fire.

**TERRILL:** (MENTAL PROJECTION)

(EFFORT OF MENTAL EXERTION) We... will no longer... be told what to do... by the parent!

**ERYS:**

(IN PAIN) Mud creatures!

**TERRILL:** (MENTAL PROJECTION)

Too late. We've cut you off from those things.

**ERYS:**

(PAINED) This is... No. I will... I will...

**LONA:**

I will stop you.

**TERRILL:** (MENTAL PROJECTION)

No, parent. This Drachee Lona cannot help you.

(FX: THE MENTAL PROJECTION RISES YET HIGHER IN PITCH.)

**LONA:**

(SCREAMS, COLLAPSES)

**TERRILL:** (MENTAL PROJECTION)

You see, parent? Lona is gone. We are stronger than you.

**ERYS:**

(ANGRY, GATHERING MENTAL STRENGTH TO FIGHT BACK) You will... never... be (MENTAL PROJECTION) ... stronger than me!

(FX: A MENTAL BLAST FROM ERY'S FILLS THE CHAMBER.)

**TERRILL AND THE DRACHEE:**

(CRY OUT AS THEY ARE KNOCKED BACK BY THE FORCE OF ERY'S WILL.)

**DOCTOR:**

Flip. Elgin. Sarra. Move to the TARDIS.

**TERRILL AND THE DRACHEE:**

(WEAK MOANS)

**ERYS:** (MENTAL PROJECTION)

Did you really think you could overpower me? You will all be absorbed.

(FX: THE MUD CREATURES MOVE FORWARD.)

AND YET MORE MUD CREATURES FORM FROM THE SLICK WET FLOORS AND WALLS.)

**FLIP:**

Erys is making more of those mud men!

**DOCTOR:**

Into the TARDIS!

**MUD BEAST:**

(A SAVAGE ROAR, CLOSE BY)

**DOCTOR:**

Back!

**SARRA:**

We'll never get past them to your ship.

**ERYs:**

Absorb them all!

**DOCTOR**

Into the tunnels! Run! Drachee! You too! Run!

(FX: THE MUD CREATURES CONTINUE TO MOVE IN. THE DOCTOR AND HIS GROUP AND THE DRACHEE RUN FOR THEIR LIVES.)

A MUD CREATURE ABSORBS A DRACHEE.)

**MALE DRACHEE:**

(A SINGLE DRACHEE – CRIES OUT AS HE IS ABSORBED, THE SCREAM BECOMING MUFFLED)

**FLIP:**

That's horrible!

**DOCTOR:**

Go! Watch the ground and stay away from the walls. Erys can make more of its mud people at any time. In fact, there – look out!

(FX: A MUD CREATURE EMERGES FROM A CLOSE BY WALL.)

**MUD BEAST:**

(ROARS)

**FLIP:**

(CRIES OUT IN SURPRISE AND SHOCK)

**ELGIN:**

(MIDDLE DISTANCE) Flip, over here!

(FX: FLIP SCRAMBLES AWAY FROM THE MUD BEAST TO JOIN ELGIN.)

**FLIP:**

They're quicker than they look, those things.

**DOCTOR:**

Flip!

**FLIP:**

(SHOUTING ACROSS THE CHAMBER) Doctor, you keep going. Do what you do best and find a way to stop this. Elgin and me, we'll draw some of them away, okay?

**DOCTOR:**

No, not okay!

**ELGIN:**

I'm with you, Flip.

**FLIP:**

Oi! Mudface!

**MUD BEASTS:**

(ROARS)

**FLIP:**

Yeah. You. Come on then. Looking for someone to absorb? You'll have to be quick! (RUNS) Bye!

(FX: FLIP AND ELGIN RUN INTO A TUNNEL. SEVERAL MUD BEASTS CHARGE AFTER THEM.)

**MUD BEASTS:**

(CHARGING ROAR, MOVING AWAY)

**DOCTOR:**

Reckless girl! – Come on, Sarra, Terrill. This way!

(FX: THE DOCTOR, TERRILL AND SARRA, WITH OTHER DRACHEE, RUN INTO ANOTHER TUNNEL. MORE MUDBEASTS CHARGE AFTER THEM.)

**MUD BEASTS:**

(CHARGING ROAR)

**ERYs:**

Hunt them down! Rid me of all of them!

**SCENE 63. INT. ERY'S - TUNNEL.**

(FX: FLIP AND ELGIN COME RUNNING DOWN THE TUNNEL AND STOP.)

**ELGIN:**

Three tunnels. Which one?

**MUD BEASTS:**

(IN DISTANCE, A CHARGING ROAR)

**FLIP:**

I don't think it matters.

**ELGIN:**

This one then. Come on.

**FLIP:**

Hang on a minute.

**ELGIN:**

For what?

**FLIP:**

I want to be sure they've seen us.

**ELGIN:**

You what?

**FLIP:**

I want them chasing us, not the Doctor.

**ELGIN:**

You live dangerously, Flip.

**FLIP:**

Yeah, it's becoming a habit.

(FX: MUD BEASTS NOW MUCH NEARER, CHARGING ROUND A BEND IN THE TUNNEL.)

**MUD BEASTS:**

(CLOSER, THEIR ROAR IS A SPINE NUMBING SOUND)

**FLIP:**

They've seen us all right! Leg it!

(FX: FLIP AND ELGIN SPRINT OFF, THE MUD BEASTS IN CLOSE PURSUIT.)

**SCENE 64. INT. ERYs — NUTRITION CHAMBER.**

(FX: THE NUTRIENT POOLS ARE BUBBLING AWAY. THE DOCTOR, SARRA AND TERRILL COME RUNNING IN.)

**DOCTOR:**

(RECOVERING FROM RUNNING) The nutrient chamber. This is what I wanted.

**TERRILL:**

(RECOVERING FROM RUNNING) You want to eat?

**SARRA:**

(RECOVERING FROM RUNNING) Doctor, whatever we're here for, be quick. Those mud beasts aren't far behind us.

(FX: THE DOCTOR WALKS A SHORT DISTANCE, HANDLES AN ORGANIC OBJECT.)

**DOCTOR:**

Terrill. These tubes, they're used to take nutrient elsewhere within Erys. Do you know what they're for?

**TERRILL:**

No.

**DOCTOR:**

Well they go down. I think that's as good a direction as any for us too. Come on, in you get. These tubes expand and they're big enough to fit a person.

**TERRILL:**

You want me to go down there?

**DOCTOR:**

Oh not just you. We're all going.

**SCENE 65. INT. ERY'S — TUNNEL.**

(FX: FLIP AND ELGIN RUNNING DOWN THE TUNNEL. MUD BEASTS IN THE DISTANCE COMING AFTER THEM. FLIP AND ELGIN COME TO A SHARP HALT.)

**ELGIN:**

(BREATHLESS FROM RUNNING) This tunnel, it stops here!

**FLIP:**

A dead end.

**ELGIN:**

An unfortunate turn of phrase.

**MUD BEASTS:**

(SNARLING, COMING CLOSER)



**SCENE 66. INT. ERY'S — INTEGRATION CHAMBER.**

(FX: SEVERAL SEALED GLASS CONTAINERS IN THIS LARGE SPACE, FILLED WITH FLUID THAT IS BUBBLING AWAY.

THERE IS ALSO A BREEZE BLOWING THROUGH THIS CHAMBER.

THERE IS A RIP OF ORGANIC MATERIAL. THE DOCTOR, SARRA AND TERRILL DROP FROM THE FEEDER TUBE IN THE CEILING ONTO THE FLOOR, ONE AFTER ANOTHER.)

**DOCTOR, TERRILL AND SARRA:**  
(GRUNT AS THEY DROP ONTO THE GROUND)

**DOCTOR:**  
Everyone all right?

**SARRA:**  
That was... revolting.

**TERRILL:**  
Where are we?

**DOCTOR:**  
Where the feeder tubes go. And we can see what they're feeding.

**SARRA:**  
Oh my...

**DOCTOR:**  
This is what sustained the avatars.

**TERRILL:**  
They are outsiders.

**DOCTOR:**  
There must be at least a thousand of these containers here. Each holding an unwilling avatar host. The unlucky survivors of Ery's wrath, crew and passengers from spacecraft that have come too close to — [this moon].

**SARRA:**  
My children! My husband! There!

**DOCTOR:**  
I'm so sorry.

(FX: SARRA RUNS HER HAND OVER THE GLASS CASING OF ONE OF THE CONTAINERS.)

**SARRA:**

This is Jen. What have they done to her? Floating in this... soup. There are tubes going into her!

**DOCTOR:**

Feeding her the nutrients that keep her alive.

**SARRA:**

Jen... and there's Mya! And Levek! My family!

**DOCTOR:**

Sarra...

(FX: SARRA BANGS HER FIST DESPERATELY ON THE THICK GLASS CASING OF ONE OF THE CONTAINERS.)

**SARRA:**

Get them out! Get them OUT!!!

(FX: SHE PULLS AT A PIECE OF FIXED METAL PIPING.)

**SARRA:**

(EFFORT OF TRYING TO LOOSEN THE FIXTURE) This piping. It's loose. If I pull it free I could use it to break the glass...

**DOCTOR:**

Sarra. They're being preserved by the fluid in their casings. They're alive, but any attempt to remove them must be done carefully.

**SARRA:**

(DISTRAUGHT) This is my family! (IN TEARS) My family.. !

**DOCTOR:**

We have to deal with the immediate threat, then we can work on getting them out.

**SARRA:**

I want them out now!

**DOCTOR:**

Sarra. They're safe where they are.

**TERRILL:**

What shall we do, Doctor?

**DOCTOR:**

We go down further.

**TERRILL:**

To where?

**DOCTOR:**

Do you feel the breeze in here? That current of air? It's coming in through that opening in the wall, and going out through that second opening in the floor.

**TERRILL:**

So?

**DOCTOR:**

The parallels aren't exact, but these channels are like trachea. Feeding air to Ery's vital organs. And as there are nerve ganglia clustered around that opening I'd say that one feeds its nerve centre.

**TERRILL:**

What do you intend?

**DOCTOR:**

Nothing fatal. Just to stop it creating these mud creatures and get it to listen to sense.

**TERRILL:**

I'm not sure.

(FX: THE GROUND BECOMES DISTURBED. IT CRACKS AND CHURNS. A MUD CREATURE FORMS FROM THE SOIL AND RAPIDLY TAKES FORM.)

**SARRA:**

Watch yourselves! A mud creature!

**MUD BEAST:**

(ROARS THREATENINGLY)

**DOCTOR:**

Ery's must know we're here! Sarra, Terrill! We have to go – into the trachea!

**TERRILL:**

I'm going.

**DOCTOR:**

Sarra!

**SARRA:**

I'm not leaving my family. I'm protecting my children.

**DOCTOR:**

Sarra...

**SARRA:**

Go!

**DOCTOR:**

(CLIMBING INTO THE TRACHEA) Take care. (DISAPPEARING INTO THE OPENING) You're a brave woman.

**SARRA:**

I'm a mother. It's what we do.

**MUD BEAST:**

(ROARS)

(FX: SARRA AGAIN PULLS ON THE PIPING. IT BREAKS FREE, SOME OF ITS FITTINGS FALLING ON THE FLOOR. SHE SWINGS IT IN THE AIR, A SWEEPING GESTURE TO WARN THE MUD BEAST OFF.)

**SARRA:**

Creature. Stay back. (SHE SWINGS THE HEAVY TOOL) You stay away from my family unless you want this pipe in your head.

**SCENE 67. ERY'S - TUNNEL.**

(FX: THE MUD BEASTS AT THE FAR END OF THE TUNNEL, COMING CLOSER.)

**MUD BEASTS:**

(SNARLING, THREATENING, IN THE MIDDLE DISTANCE.)

**FLIP:**

Do you think maybe if we run, we'd get past them?

**ELGIN:**

No. But I can give you a chance at least.

**FLIP:**

Eh? Oh no, don't you dare.

**ELGIN:**

I'll run at them. While they're dealing with me, that will be your chance.

**FLIP:**

Elgin, no!

**ELGIN:**

Whatever this absorption is, I hope it's quick. (STARTS TO RUN)  
Good luck, Flip!

(FX: ELGIN RUNS AT THE MUD CREATURES)

**FLIP:**

NO!!

**ELGIN:**

(GIVES A CHARGING CRY, WHICH BECOMES A CRY OF PAIN AS HE IS GRABBED AND ABSORBED, BEHIND THE FOLLOWING.)

(FX: ELGIN IS RESTRAINED AND ABSORBED BY THE MUD CREATURES. A WET, SUCKING ENVELOPMENT OF HIM.)

**MUD BEASTS:**

(SNARLING IN SATISFACTION AS ELGIN IS ABSORBED.)

**ELGIN:**

(MUFFLED CRIES, THEN, ALSO SLIGHTLY MUFFLED AS HE IS ENVELOPED BY THE MUD - ) Run, Flip! Run! Help find my grandchildren ...

**FLIP:**

Elgin! (STARTING TO RUN) I'm running, I'm runn[ing] – (EFFORT OF RUNNING, THEN A CRY AS SHE IS INTERCEPTED BY A MUD BEAST)  
No! Let go of me!!

**MUD BEAST:**

(VERY CLOSE, A CRY OF TRIUMPH AS IT SNARES FLIP, THEN MOVES IN TO ABSORB HER.)

**FLIP:**

(HER CRIES ARE MUFFLED AND EVENTUALLY OVERCOME BY THE ABSORPTION PROCESS) No! ... NO!! ... Doctor ... !

(FX: FLIP IS ABSORBED AS ELGIN WAS.)

**MUD BEASTS:**

(THEIR SNARLS MORE SUBDUED, THEIR WORK DONE. THEIR TARGETS ABSORBED.)

**SCENE 68. INT. ERY'S NERVE CENTRE.**

(FX: ANOTHER LARGE CHAMBER, WITH A SUBTLE ECHO. AS WITH THE INTEGRATION CHAMBER, A BREEZE IS BLOWING, THE LIFE-SUSTAINING BREATH OF ERY'S.)

THE DOCTOR AND TERRILL DROP FROM THE TRACHEA OPENING IN THE ROOF, DOWN ONTO THE FLOOR.)

**DOCTOR AND TERRILL:**

(GRUNT AS THEY DROP TO THE FLOOR.)

**DOCTOR:**

Well well. Just what I was looking for.

**TERRILL:**

This is the parent's brain?

**DOCTOR:**

The brain itself, the organ, will be at the core. And protected behind layers of flesh and membrane. But this chamber contains the nerve clusters that communicate to and from that brain. You see these tubes here?

**TERRILL:**

I see them.

**DOCTOR:**

They contain nerve fibres. Each tube is connected to different parts of the brain, responsible for different biological responses and functions. If I'm not mistaken, this cluster here will connect to the equivalent of the hypothalamus.

**TERRILL:**

What does that do?

**DOCTOR:**

Many things, mainly autonomic functions like breathing and heartbeat. But it also controls the formation of secretions, which is basically what the mud creatures are. If I can make the right excisions in these fibres, Ery's will lose the ability to create any more of the creatures. And the existing ones should become inert.

**TERRILL:**

It will not harm the parent?

**DOCTOR:**

(CROUCHING DOWN) Not if done properly. I have to be careful. Especially as I don't have any instruments. But the outer covering should tear easily enough...

(FX: THE FLESHY COVERING OF THE NERVE FIBRE TEARS CLEANLY. THE DOCTOR THEN PULLS IT BACK.)

**DOCTOR:**

(CONTINUED)... which it does. Now, let's peel this back. Oh.

**TERRILL:**

What is it?

**DOCTOR:**

These are the fibres, but some of them are already damaged.

**TERRILL:**

Damaged, how?

**DOCTOR:**

I'd say it's the effect of a disease, or virus, probably some time ago. Damage like this would be very painful to Erys. That could explain the aggression, the mistrust...

**TERRILL:**

Can it be repaired?

**DOCTOR:**

Very possibly. First we have to stop these mud creatures. To do that, I'll have to excise some of these other fibres.

**TERRILL:**

So many of them.

**DOCTOR:**

The narrower fibres are the ones we want. Hmmm. Still, there is an element of pot luck here.

(FX: THERE IS A RUMBLE THAT GROWS, BECOMING A LOW THUNDER.)

**TERRILL:**

(AFRAID) What's that?

**DOCTOR:**

Erys knows we're here. It knows we're interfering with its nervous system. This could get difficult.



**TERRILL:**

Do it! Break the fibres!

**DOCTOR:**

A moment. I need to be sure. If I break the wrong ones Erys could go into convulsion. I can trace these fibres a short distance, to be sure...

(FX: MUD BEASTS FORM OUT OF THE FLOOR AND WALLS, SEVERAL OF THEM. THE EFFECT HEARD BEHIND THE FOLLOWING.)

**TERRILL:**

Mud creatures!

**DOCTOR:**

And lots of them. Oh dear.

**MUD BEASTS:**

(ROARING, SNARLING, ADVANCING TOWARDS US.)

**SCENE 69. INT. INTEGRATION CHAMBER.**

(FX: SARRA SWIPES AT THE MUD BEAST WITH THE LENGTH OF PIPE.)

**MUD BEASTS:**

(ROARS)

**SARRA:**

I said get back!!

(FX: MORE MUD BEASTS FORM FROM THE FLOOR AND WALLS.)

**MUD BEASTS:**

(THE WHOLE GROUP ROARS ANGRILY)

**SARRA:**

Thought you'd invite some friends, did you? Well you still have to get past me. (QUIETLY, HER BRAVURA GONE) Oh girls I'm sorry. There are too many...

(FX: THE MUD BEASTS CLOSE IN.)

**SCENE 70. INT. ERY'S NERVE CENTRE.**

**TERRILL:**

Doctor! Quickly!

**DOCTOR:**

One moment! I'm nearly there. I just need to be sure.

**TERRILL:**

They're almost on us! ... I'll do it!

**DOCTOR:**

No!!

**TERRILL:**

(EFFORT OF PULLING ON THE NERVE FIBRES)

(FX: THE NERVE FIBRES ARE TORN AWAY. AS THIS HAPPENS THE MUD BEASTS FALL SILENT.)

**DOCTOR:**

Terrill you fool!

**TERRILL:**

But Doctor it worked! Look! The mud creatures. They're not moving! I tell you, it worked!

**DOCTOR:**

We'll see.

**SCENE 71. INT. INTEGRATION CHAMBER.**

(FX: MUD BEASTS ADVANCING, THREATENING.)

**SARRA:**

Keep away from me! Keep away from my family!!

(THE MUD BEASTS FALL SILENT AND IMMOBILE.)

**SARRA:**

(CONTINUED) I don't believe it... (LAUGHS) I don't believe it! Oh Doctor, well done. Thank you!

(FX: A LOW RUMBLE STARTS UP.)

**SARRA:**

(CONTINUED) What's that?

**SCENE 72. INT. ERY'S NERVE CENTRE.**

(FX: HERE TOO, THE RUMBLE HAS STARTED UP AND NOW TURNS INTO A LOUD, TREMBLING ROAR, BEHIND THE FOLLOWING.)

**DOCTOR:**

Just what I was afraid of.

**TERRILL:**

The parent is hurt?

**DOCTOR:**

You've seriously damaged Ery's essential autonomic functions. It's having a seizure. It could die.

**TERRILL:**

(GRIEF STRICKEN) NO! No, the parent mustn't die! What have I done??

**DOCTOR:**

Let's look at the damage.

(FX: A SINEW SLITHERS FROM THE CEILING AND WRAPS ITSELF AROUND THE DOCTOR.)

**DOCTOR:**

(CONTINUED) (CRIES OUT AND STRUGGLES AS THE SINEW TIGHTENS)

**TERRILL:**

What is it?

**DOCTOR:**

A sinew! A last desperate move by Ery's. It's crushing me!  
(CRIES IN PAIN AS THE SINEW TIGHTENS STILL FURTHER) No, stay back or it will wrap itself around you too!

**TERRILL:**

What can I do??

**DOCTOR:**

(ANOTHER CRY OF PAIN) Can't ... take this much longer ...

**ERY'S:** (MENTAL PROJECTION)

(IN PAIN) Doctor. Can you hear me?

**DOCTOR:**

Ery's?

**ERY'S:** (MENTAL PROJECTION)

I sense your fear.

(FX: THE SINEW RELAXES VERY SLIGHTLY, ENOUGH FOR THE DOCTOR TO BREATHE.)

**DOCTOR:**

(RECOVERING FROM THE CRUSHING EFFECT OF THE SINEW) Erys? I can help you. I can save you. You've been ill, but you can be cured.

**TERRILL:**

Doctor? You are talking to the parent?

**DOCTOR:**

It's in my mind. Must be the physical contact. Erys, you've been ill but you can be cured. I can save you.

**ERY'S:** (MENTAL PROJECTION)

You lie. You would kill me.

**DOCTOR:**

Listen to me!

**ERY'S:** (MENTAL PROJECTION)

No more talking. There is only death now. For us both.

(FX: THE SINEW AROUND THE DOCTOR TIGHTENS ONCE MORE.)

**DOCTOR:**

(CRIES OUT IN RENEWED PAIN) Erys, there's no need for this!

(FX: TWO MUD BEASTS EMERGE FROM THE WALL.)

**FLIP AND ELGIN:**

(AS MUD BEASTS) (SNARLING AS THEY EMERGE)

**TERRILL:**

Mud creatures! I thought they'd been stopped?

**DOCTOR:**

Not these two it seems. Get back, Terrill!

(FX: THE MUD BEASTS SHUFFLE CLOSER.)

**FLIP AND ELGIN:**

(AS MUD BEASTS) (SNARLING AS THEY COME TOWARDS US)

**DOCTOR:**

Don't let them touch you!

**FLIP:**

(AS MUD BEAST) (VERY CLOSE, SNARLING)

**DOCTOR:**

Crushed by this sinew, or absorbed by this mud creature. It amounts to much the same thing, I suppose.

**FLIP:**

(AS MUD BEAST) (SNARLS AS SHE TEARS AT THE SINEW AROUND THE DOCTOR, RIPS IT FREE.)

**TERRILL:**

What's it doing...?

**ERYS:** (MENTAL PROJECTION)

What is this?! More betrayal?

**DOCTOR:**

Thank you, mud creature. I confess, I'm a little puzzled as to [exactly why]

**FLIP:**

(AS MUD BEAST) (SNARLS A WORD THAT SOUNDS LIKE - ) Doc... tor ...

**TERRILL:**

Doctor. It said your name!

**DOCTOR:**

I believe it did.

**ELGIN:**

(AS MUD BEAST) (SNARLS AS HE MOVES FORWARD AND KNEELS TOWARDS THE CLUSTER OF NERVE FIBRES.)

**TERRILL:**

This one is manipulating the parent's nerve fibres. Doctor, what should I do?

**DOCTOR:**

Let him carry on. I have a feeling he knows exactly what he's doing.

**ELGIN:**

(AS MUD BEAST) (SNARLS AGREEMENT WITH THE DOCTOR)

**TERRILL:**

Do not hurt the parent!

(FX: THE ROAR OF ERY'S CONVULSIONS EBBS AWAY. CALM IS RESTORED.)

**DOCTOR:**

I told you he knew what he was doing.

(FX: THE MUD COATING THE MUD CREATURES SLITHERS AND FALLS FROM THEM, BEHIND THE FOLLOWING:)

**TERRILL:**

The mud, it's sliding off them!

**FLIP:**

(AS MUD BEAST) (A SNARL TRANSFORMS, BECOMING SPEECH:) Doc ... tor ... Are ... Are ... (HERSELF, BUT EXHAUSTED) Are you all right?

**DOCTOR:**

Flip! And of course ... Elgin!

**ELGIN:**

(ALSO EXHAUSTED AS HE RESUMES HUMAN FORM) Glad to see you again.

**DOCTOR:**

What happened to you?

**FLIP:**

I'm not sure. They caught us, those mud things. They walked into us, and I could feel them take over. It was like this thing was carrying me around inside it.

**ELGIN:**

Then all of a sudden we regained some measure of self-awareness and control.

**DOCTOR:**

That will be when the fibres were first severed. Ery's control of the mud creatures ceased. You had room to think for yourselves. And your latest actions severed the link with Ery's completely. Welcome back.

**FLIP:**

It's good to be back!

**DOCTOR:**

And Elgin. Good work on Ery's nerve fibres.



**ELGIN:**

I've rendered the creature unconscious. It'll do for now.

**DOCTOR:**

Could you effect a permanent recovery? Repair the damage that Erys has suffered?

**ELGIN:**

I could. But I don't know if I will. This thing is evil.

**DOCTOR:**

Very few beings are truly evil. Erys is a creature that's been in pain. And you're a surgeon who can end that pain.

**ELGIN:**

Maybe, but still ...

**DOCTOR:**

There's one other thing I would ask you to do as part of the operation. Do you have the memory restorative you used on Sarra?

**ELGIN:**

You mean this?

(FX: ELGIN TAKES FROM HIS POCKET THE OBJECT HE USED TO RESTORE SARRA'S MEMORY IN SCENE 60. HE SWITCHES IT ON. IT POWERS UP.)

**DOCTOR:**

Yes. I want you to use that to implant a message in Erys during the operation.

**ELGIN:**

I don't see why not. But what message?

**DOCTOR:**

Let's call it a lesson in parenting.

(GRAMS: MUSIC. PASSAGE OF TIME.)

**SCENE 73. INT. INTEGRATION CHAMBER [LATER].**

(FX: FADE UP. A NUMBER OF CONTROL WHEELS ARE BEING TURNED. THERE IS A RUSH OF DRAINING FLUID WITHIN THE CONTAINERS.)

**SARRA:**

It worked. The containers are draining. Will my family be all right?

**DOCTOR:**

They should be fine. They've been expertly preserved. They won't have known anything of what's happened to them since they were integrated. And now we've reversed the process properly, there's no danger to them.

**JEN, MYA and LEVEK:**

(INSIDE THEIR CONTAINERS, WAKING UP)

**FLIP:**

They're awake!

**DOCTOR:**

Sarra. That switch will open their containers.

(FX: SARRA OPERATES THE CONTROL. THREE CONTAINERS CLICK AND SWING OPEN.)

**JEN AND MYA:**

Mother! Mother!

**SARRA:**

My beautiful girls! Oh come here. Let me hold you!

(FX: THE GIRLS RUSH INTO SARRA'S ARMS AND HUG TIGHTLY.)

**JEN:**

Where is this place?

**MYA:**

Is this a hospital? We were in a crash, it was horrible.

**SARRA:**

I'll tell you everything later.

**LEVEK:**

(APPROACHING) Sarra? Oh Sarra.

**SARRA:**

Levek! Oh darling, I'm so glad you're safe!

**LEVEK:**

Sarra, I'm sorry. I had no idea it was so dangerous. Our girls...

**SARRA:**

Shhh. I'm just glad we're all back together again.

**DOCTOR:**

And now you can go home.

**SARRA:**

Will it be safe to go?

**DOCTOR:**

Oh yes. Erys and I have had a meeting of minds on a number of subjects. Which reminds me, Erys is expecting me for a chat. Come on, Flip.

(FX: THE DOCTOR AND FLIP WALK OUT.)

**SCENE 74. INT. ERYs — MAIN CHAMBER.**

(FX: FADE UP. THE DOCTOR AND FLIP ENTER THE CHAMBER.)

**DOCTOR:**

(ENTERING) Erys. How are you?

**ERYs:**

I am well, Doctor. I feel ... renewed. Calmer. At peace.

**DOCTOR:**

You're lucky to have had someone as skilled as Elgin on hand to repair your neural damage.

**ERYs:**

I know what he did. What you both did. During the repair I was implanted with memories. His daughter's memories as a mother.

**DOCTOR:**

Erys, I ...

**ERYs:**

And also your own memories.

**DOCTOR:**

Yes.

**ERYs:**

A generous gift, the memories of a Time Lord.

**DOCTOR:**

Gladly given, for a purpose.

**ERYs:**

A lonely childhood. A rebellious adolescence... You couldn't wait to get away from your people and your planet, Gallifrey, could you?... So many adventures you have had in your travels. So many enemies, but so many friends. Sarah Jane and Romana. Jo, and Leela, and Nyssa, and...

**FLIP:**

(CLEARS THROAT) A-hem-?

**ERYs:**

... Peri. (THOUGHTFUL) Yes, the thought of Peri is strong in you. There are more. Many more. But above all —

**FLIP:**

(EXPECTANT) Aww —

**ERYs:**

Above all... Susan.

**FLIP:**

(PUT OUT) Who?!

**DOCTOR:**

Susan. My granddaughter.

**FLIP:**

You're a grandad?!

**ERYs:**

You loved her and protected her.

**DOCTOR:**

I did. Of course.

**ERYs:**

And then you let her go.

**DOCTOR:**

I left her on Earth. With the man she had fallen in love with.

**ERYs:**

You didn't just let her go, you shut her out. You made her follow a life without you.

**DOCTOR:**

She thought she needed to look after me. I knew she needed to follow her own path, and embrace her own happiness.

**ERYs:**

You said: "Go forward in all your beliefs... And prove to me that I am not mistaken in mine."

**DOCTOR:**

I believe I did. (PAUSE) Erys?

**ERYs:**

(HESITANT) Did you expect me to be swayed by such an obvious trick?

**DOCTOR:**

No trick, Erys. It's no more than my true memory. That's what you do when you love your children, you let them go.

**ERY'S:**

Don't worry, Doctor. Whether a trick or not, I will keep to the bargain we struck. I feel ready to take this chance. If you and Elgin and his daughter have melded my thoughts, so be it.

**DOCTOR:**

It's a big step, Erys. I understand you're nervous. But be brave, be bold.

**ERY'S:**

But what if the Drachee leave and never return? And if I allow the neighbouring systems to visit here, what if they come as aggressors?

**DOCTOR:**

The Drachee, they'll return, or most of them will. And some will choose to stay here and never leave. It's called self-determination.

**FLIP:**

And if you let visitors come here, without smashing their ships and that, I'm sure before you know it you'll have neighbours on Asphya for the Drachee to get to know.

**DOCTOR:**

And as for the neighbouring systems, well, the representatives who are on their way to see you will discuss your concerns. They've already agreed to provide security patrols to keep out those with less than friendly intentions towards you.

**ERY'S:**

Your memories showed me for the first time the breadth of life and experience that exists across the universe. There is great goodness.

**DOCTOR:**

Indeed.

**ERY'S:**

And great evil.

**DOCTOR:**

The evil is an exception. Evil just shouts louder than goodness.

**ERY'S:**

Yes. I saw that in your mind too. (PAUSE) I make no promises, but I will speak with these representatives. And I will allow my Drachee to travel if they so wish.

**DOCTOR:**

I'm hopeful you will find agreement with your neighbours, Ery's. It's natural to doubt, and even be afraid, when faced with great change.

**ERY'S:**

As with you and your granddaughter.

**DOCTOR:**

Sorry?

**ERY'S:**

When you shut her out of your TARDIS and gave her a separate life. You were full of doubt, and afraid.

**DOCTOR:**

... Yes.

**ERY'S:**

Your heart was heavy. But you did it because you believed it was the best thing for her. And you have regretted that decision many times since. You miss her.

**DOCTOR:**

I do. And although I have sometimes, selfishly, wished it undone, there's no doubt in my mind that it was the best thing for Susan.

**ERY'S:**

Thank you for those memories, Doctor.

**DOCTOR:**

Thank you. And goodbye, Ery's. Good luck. Come on, Flip.

(AS THEY WALK:)

**FLIP:**

That it? Problem solved?

**DOCTOR:**

It would appear so. Yes, all in all, a most satisfactory outcome.

**FLIP:**

So where to now? You still owe me a return trip to Tranquillity.

**DOCTOR:**

I'm not sure about that. (STOPPING) Flip, [I -]

**FLIP:**

(STOPPING) What do you mean, not sure about - Oh, I get it. It's this Peri, isn't it? We're gonna recalibrate the TARDIS's wireless, then we're going off in search of this Peri? Something like that?

**DOCTOR:**

(DEEP BREATH) ... Something like that, yes.

**FLIP:**

Phew. For a minute there, I thought you were about to say you were gonna shut me out of the TARDIS. Like that's ever gonna happen, right?

**DOCTOR:**

As you would say, Miss Jackson... "As if."

**CRASH IN CLOSING THEME.**